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Trial of Mayor Atalig, girlfriend reset to Aug. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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1 more positive case in NMI

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

In just 24 hours, when one person had recovered from the coronavirus in the Commonwealth, the CNMI's number changed once again, this time with one confirmed positive case, raising the CNMI's total to 22.

See POSITIVE on Page 4

SBA: $34.9M PPA loans OK'd in NMI

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved over $513 billion worth of loans under its Paycheck Protection Program and, of that number, 336 applicants are from the Northern Marianas, amounting to a total of $34,902,412.

In addition, SBA has also

See SBA on Page 4

Penalty awaits people cashing other people's stimulus checks

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Penalties await individuals who are cashing stimulus checks that do not belong to them.

With the Department of Finance's release of $42.7 million in stimulus checks last week, Division of Revenue & Taxation director Tracy B. Norita warns of penalties for those who are cashing or not turning in checks that were wrongly sent, or are cashing checks of deceased persons.

"There are criminal penalties for those that are cashing

See PENALTY on Page 4

NMC tweaking reopening plan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is currently working on plans to reopen its campus come fall semester. As a first step, that means creating a Healthy Fall 2020 Task Force.

According to NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, the Healthy Fall 2020 Task Force will be tasked to develop a plan that will allow for the safe reopening of the campus in the fall semester.

"With deliberate planning

See NMC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, May 21, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	154	11	165
Recovered	125	0	125
Active	24	11	35
Deaths	6*	0	6*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	21	1	22
Recovered	13	0	13
Active	7	0	7
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**			4,089

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

IN THE DARK OF THE NIGHT
The casino of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in Garapan remains unlit yesterday evening, despite an earlier statement that it was set to be reconnected to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last Wednesday. CUC cut electric power to the casino and to the IPI office on Capital Hill last Tuesday for non-payment of bills. CUC chief Gary P. Camacho had said that power will be reconnected after IPI pays its bill. KRIZEL TUAZON

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LOCAL
The Marianas Visitors Authority spreads goodwill to friends near and far.

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BUSINESS
LCC has been building quality homes in the CNMI since 2016.

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ASIA
A cyclone plows into India and Bangladesh, where more than 2.6 million people fled.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands hereby extends an invitation to all US citizens & CNMI registered voters to become candidates for election to the House of Representatives and Senate as nominees under the Democratic Party for the upcoming mid-term elections. All interested persons must submit a Letter of Intent addressed to Nola Kileleman Hix, Chairwoman of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands via email at chairwoman@nmidems.org. All such letters must be received on or before June 20, 2020.

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CNMI
The People's Party

Local

Veterans Affairs Office not relocating from current site

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Veterans Affairs Office is not going anywhere.

Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo set the record straight with a short, "We're not moving anywhere," when asked about reports of the VAO relocating offices.

The unconfirmed report claims that the VAO is being relocated to the Indigenous Affairs Office on Capital Hill.

At the House of Representatives session yesterday, lawmakes expressed concern over the fate of CNMI veterans. Federal & Foreign Affairs chair Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) raised issues on the confidentiality of documents and the loss of confidence from the veterans, should the two offices be located in one small space. Castro said that the VAO has already established itself on Capital Hill, where veterans can comfortably meet with the staff as well as Iaokopo.

"In addition, the issue that I see is that, in regards to certain parameters of dialogue between the veterans and the Veterans Affairs Office, they need confidence that their concerns are heard in a comfortable manner," he added. "We're not criticizing where they're going to, but that building, it really small so there's a good possibility that information that is supposed to be held in strict confidence might not be so confidential in the long run."

He also raised concerns about social distancing, which could be a violation of the current directive to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.

"We owe our veterans a little bit more," Castro said. "Our veterans don't ask for much. If we are able to give them that opportunity where they can dialogue with the people that are seeing them, in a comfortable manner, then I feel that we it owe it to them."

House vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) echoed Castro's concerns. "You cannot mix apples and oranges. This is with regards to the Veterans Affairs and putting them in another office," he said. "There's a lot of confidentiality. …For one thing, the DD 214 is a very critical document. …That's the discharge papers for the veterans."

The House vice speaker, however, said that he was able to communicate with Iakopo, who informed him that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has assured that the VAO is not relocating.

"The governor told him flat, 'You're not relocating. You're staying where you're at.'"

"I hope this is good news for the Veterans Affairs Office, and the veterans. I even emphasized to Mr. Iakopo that your office there is sacred for veterans. They've been there. They've practically built it from the ground up, and there's no sense to relocate them," Deleon Guerrero said.

Drive-thru testing on Rota starts

The Rota Health Center has organized a drive-thru community-based testing for residents who would like to be tested for COVID-19.

Testing will be held this Saturday at the Benjamin T. Maglona International Airport from 7am to 1pm. It continues on Tuesday, May 26, at the Rota Health Center, from 9am to 4pm.

"On each testing date, [the] testing team can take up to only 94 specimens per day," said a statement from the Rota Mayor's Office.

Any individual who wants to get tested may register online at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing

"I am urging and highly encouraging all government workers, private business establishments, and our residents to please register to get tested," said Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig.

"There can only be a maximum of four people per vehicle and each passenger must sit next to the window that rolls down for specimen collection," he said in a video message posted on the Office of the Governor's Facebook page.

Each individual must ensure that you are wearing a mask through the process

Additionally, to those that will be tested, you will need a confirmation ID or else you may not be tested. The results will be provided via a phone call by the Community Testing Callback team.

According to Atalig, he wants people to get tested so that they can confirm that the island of Rota is COVID-19-free and will continue to protect their borders to ensure that it remains that way.

"Let us all do our part to ensure we continue to protect ourselves and our loved ones by practicing social distancing and cleanliness," he said.

For more information, call the COVID-19 info line at (670) 285-1352/1672/1845. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Animal Protection Bill heads to Torres

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

An Animal Rights Protection Bill now moves to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for enactment, after passing through the House of Representatives yesterday on a unanimous vote, following an amendment from the Senate.

Introduced by House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), House Bill 21-59, HD1, SS1, prohibits cruelty and theft of animals, and provides penalties for such acts.

Any person who mistreats, abandons, or neglects an animal, whether his own or someone else's, will be faced with fines and penalties.

Cruel mistreatment covers torturing and inflicting unnecessary physical injury upon an animal, or to kill an animal in a manner that causes suffering to the animal. This includes mutilating, maiming, stabbing, burning, drowning, beating, suffocating, tormenting, crushing, harming, or inflicting physical injury upon an animal.

Cruel neglect is to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly fail to provide an animal with food, water, or shelter to ensure the animal remains healthy; protection from adverse weather conditions; including the failure to provide medical care when the animal is sick.

"Today, for the first time, we passed the Animal Protection Act, and it's a great day for animal lovers. …Today, historically, we will have [a legislation] that will protect animals from cruel acts," Propst said.

In the middle of the deliberation for the bill, a dog in the CNMI, which had a knife embedded 2-3 inches in its head, went viral in social media.

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Trial of Mayor Atalig, girlfriend reset to Aug. 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has reset to Aug. 4, 2020 instead of July 7, 2020, the jury trial of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig.

» Motion to sanction Park under advisement

At a motion hearing Wednesday that lasted about seven hours, Manglona granted the U.S. government's unopposed request to reset the trial date as its key witness, investigator Travis Hurst from the Office of the Public Auditor, will be going off-island. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley said that Hurst has been accepted into a three-week training program with the U.S. Secret Service beginning July 6, 2020. The Ataligs, through counsel, did not oppose resetting the trial date. The trial has already been reset several times for many reasons; the recent one being the COVID-19 pandemic.

During Wednesday's hearing, Manglona also granted the Ataligs' joint motion to amend witness list to add former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and federal criminal investigator Dr. Gregory Vecchi, who testified at the hearing via telephone as he is in the U.S. mainland.

» Mayor allowed to include a former FBI agent as his expert witness

David G. Banes, counsel for Efraim Atalig, said tht Vecchi is expected to testify that the investigation of this case exhibits confirmation bias against the Ataligs among the U.S. government's investigators, primarily FBI special agent Haejun Park.

Banes said Vecchi is expected to testify that Park improperly influenced and threatened witnesses, and also failed to conform to accepted investigative standards and practices.

At Wednesday's hearing, Manglona placed under advisement the Ataligs' motion to sanction Park. Manglona said she will come up with a written order by June 2, 2020.

At the hearing, Banes called Vecchi, Hurst, and Park to the witness stand.

In their motion to impose sanctions, the Ataligs, through their counsel, alleged that Park had committed witness tampering and misconduct.

Park has denied that he tried to dissuade Vecchi from testifying on behalf of the Ataligs' defense in the case.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

Not a citizen? Only qualifying residents can get stimulus funds

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Resident aliens with a valid social security number qualify for a stimulus check. However, the Division of Revenue & Taxation of the Department of Finance clarifies that the individual should be a qualifying resident in 2020.

"A person who is a qualifying resident alien with a valid social security number is eligible for the payment. But I do have to reiterate that the person must be a qualifying resident in 2020, and could not be claimed as a dependent on somebody else's return," Revenue & Taxation director Tracy B. Norita stressed.

Those who have received the payment but are not qualifying residents in 2020 must return the payment. "If somebody received a check and they are no longer in the CNMI, those checks must be returned," Norita added.

Norita also clarified that a valid social security number is one that is valid for employment issued by the Social Security Administration prior to the filing deadline of July 15. If the Social Security card states that it is not valid for employment, then it is not valid for the purpose of the issuance of stimulus checks.

"We've also seen Social Security cards that say 'Valid for work only with DHS authorization,' In that case, when we see that printed on a social security card, we will ask you for your DHS authorization that is currently valid," she added. "If you provide an authorization that has expired," then your social security number is no longer valid for a stimulus check. Until such time you provide a valid work authorization from the Department of Homeland Security, then you will be eligible."

The Department of Finance released its first batch of stimulus checks, totaling $42.7 million, last week.

To those wondering where their stimulus payments are, Finance Secretary David Atalig said that there are upcoming batches, the next one of which will go out today, Friday.

"I believe we satisfied and helped out many, many, many taxpayers. But there's still some that are waiting for their stimulus checks and they will be getting theirs.…I just want to reiterate also that the [release of the] stimulus checks is ongoing," he said.

"There's a lot of different issues that different taxpayers have to resolve, or we haven't got to their filing. We have many that are zero income submission of tax returns, and so those are being entered, and hopefully, a pretty decent batch will be going out this Friday," Atalig added.

For those who have inquiries or concerns about their stimulus payment, email the Division of Revenue & Taxation at stimulus@dof.gov.mp.

MINA awarded $222K grant to fight invasive vines in NMI

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance has been awarded a grant amounting to $222,320 from the U.S. Department of the Interior to support its campaign against the spread of invasive vines in the CNMI.

MINA, a community-based, non-profit organization, will use the funds to recruit and train five additional Tasi-Watch rangers to help control the spread of invasive vines in priority watershed areas.

Invasive vines on Saipan are smothering native plants and trees, leading to erosion and increased sedimentation in streams and in the ocean. Among the invasive vines identified on Saipan are Operculina, Ipomoea spp, Cryptostegia grandiflora, Coccinia grandis, Epipremnum aureum, Antigonon leptopus, Passiflora spp, and Mikania scandens.

Funds will also support the MINA Schools for Environmental Conservation program where they recruit one teacher and five students from each school to participate in hands-on and in-the-field conservation experiences in the community.

MINA has managed coastal and ocean cleanup for the past 10 years through a Tasi-Watch program, which was founded in 2010. The program has been successful in recruiting recent high school graduates and training them to become community conservation rangers who work to protect the natural environment and share conservation messages in the community with their peers, families, villages, and the wider island population. The word Tasi in Chamorro means ocean.

The award is part of the $942,206 in fiscal year 2020 Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative grants to eradicate and control the spread of invasive species in the U.S. territories of Guam and the CNMI, as well as in the Republic of Palau, and Yap, in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Funding will be used to introduce biological control of coconut rhinoceros beetles, control and eradicate feral cats and monitor lizards, and destroy wild vines, all of which are disruptive to ecological systems and impacting communities and livelihoods in the islands.

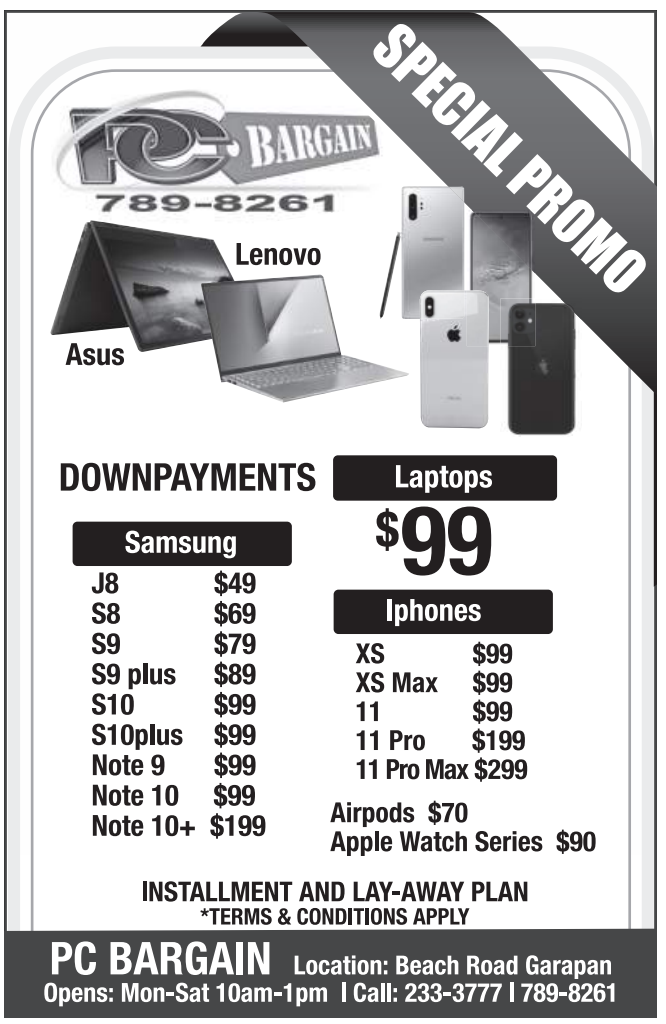
Aside from MINA, the other beneficiaries are:

■ $239,994 is awarded to the University of Guam to establish biological control of the coconut rhinoceros beetle population in Guam;

■ $239,922 is awarded to Island Conservation to eradicate feral cats in the Ulong Island area of the Rock Islands in Palau;

■ $239,970 is awarded to Island Conservation to eradicate invasive monitor lizards and manage an outbreak of Montipora corals in Ulithi Atoll, Yap in FSM.

For more on Office of Insular Affairs funding to eradicate invasive species in the insular areas, visit the OIA website at https://www.doi.gov/oia/press-releases. ***(PR)***



BMV, HSO, Firearms and Records office open today

The CNMI Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Highway Safety Office, and the Firearms and Records office will remain open today, May 22, 2020.

BMV

8am-11am: document drop-off for vehicle and/or watercraft registration renewal

8am-11am: walk-in for driver's license renewal

8am-11am: updated document(s) pick-up

BMV will be accepting incoming documents and will be processing these documents for next-day pick-up.

BMV is now processing driver's licenses and vehicle/watercraft registrations that have expired after the month of March. Driver's license and vehicle/watercraft registrations that have expired beginning April 1, 2020, are now being processed.

To prevent the machines from overheating and to prevent premature machine failure the BMV office will be processing a maximum of 50 driver's license prints per day.

For more information, call 664-9066.

HSO

9am – 12pm: for walk-in services

For all inquiries related to the Child Restraint Purchase Assistance Program and the Highway Safety Office, call 664-9121 /9125 or /9131.

Firearms and Records office

9am – 3pm: for walk-in services

For all inquiries related to the DPS Firearms and Records office, call 664-9072.

All individuals who are looking to visit the offices and avail of the services are required to wear a mask and maintain the standard 6-foot distance while lining up outside the offices and while around other individuals.

We ask individuals to make payments at the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe, CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, or Revenue and Tax in Dandan before turning in documents, as the BMV cashiers window will be closed. ***(PR)***

Some fear that lifting PSS furlough could deplete CARES Act funding

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Public School System employees fear that the administration's plans to lift furloughs earlier than planned could deplete the funding from the Education Stabilization fund under the CARES Act.

During a recent Board of Education meeting, Marianas High School teacher Jeremy Rother said the administration's earlier announcement to lift the furlough was later retracted, but PSS employees are still concerned about the possibility of the PSS leadership prematurely lifting the furlough in a way that depletes the limited funding that is available for education from the CARES Act.

He added that putting PSS employees back on the payroll should not be the primary reason for spending the federal funds. Instead, PSS should use the funding for next school year's operations by purchasing technology and other instructional resources for students, or repairing and replacing the crumbling infrastructure in various schools, he added.

"PSS leadership already made the mistake of incurring outsize payroll liabilities, which they knew they would not even be able to pay on time to locally funded employees by keeping us on administrative leave status, all the way until April 15. During this period, PSS wasted money it did not have yet by deepening its outstanding obligation to employees who were not working," Rother said.

He added that most of the furloughed teachers are expecting unemployment benefits from the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs and lifting furloughs would make them ineligible for this aid.

"If PSS employees remain on furlough, most of us can expect more money for the furlough period from unemployment assistance programs, and a more financially robust PSS going into next school year. If the furlough is lifted, PSS can expect less money for that same period and more financial uncertainty for PSS employees, students, and families we serve," Rother said.

BOE member MaryLou Ada agreed with Rother, saying that PSS should carefully plan how it spends the stabilization funds. "All reimbursement that we are going to make defies what we are trying to stress—quality education. More funding is going toward personnel but not into the actual fiscal development for PSS."

However, she said, PSS should pay employees what is owed them, but she disagreed with the idea of "un-furloughing" the employees so PSS can pay them "and then putting them back on furlough so they can get unemployment benefits."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PENALTY

From Page 1

checks that don't belong to them," Norita warns. "As for collection of these monies that should have been returned, our division will take enforcement action and collect this money through our collection procedures, which include notices to the taxpayer."

Revenue & Taxation could also file liens against the taxpayer who did not return the money, which would impact that individual's ability to get loans. A tax levy can also be issued where Revenue & Taxation garnishes the money from an individual's bank account, or seize his or her assets.

Many have reported receiving other people's stimulus checks in their postal boxes and these checks should be returned to the post office, or to the Office of Revenue & Taxation.

In cases of duplicate or erroneous payment, or payment was made for a deceased person, Norita said "void" should be written on the back of the check in the endorsement section, and then the check should be returned in person to the Revenue & Taxation drop box, or by mail.

For those who have filed joint returns, the portion of the deceased person must be returned. Incarcerated individuals also do not qualify for payment.

"If it was a check that you had cashed already or was made through direct deposit, you can come in person and make a payment, whether it be by credit card or check, or again, you can mail in your check or money order to the Division of Revenue & Taxation," she added.

Individuals who have moved, or who prefer their stimulus checks sent to a different postal box must fill out the Internal Revenue Service Form 8822, Change of Address. "We do validate what information was entered into the system, but if they need to change the address that they had indicated on their return, they do need to fill out a form, 8822 Change of Address Form, for us to officially change their address in the system," Norita explained. "If it was a simple error that was made on our side, we can change the address on the check, and have that re-issued and re-sent out. We are entertaining the address issue at this time."

SBA

From Page 1

approved $453,800 for 10 economic injury disaster loans in the CNMI.

SBA's Paycheck Protection Program helps small businesses that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, so that they could avoid laying off their employees. The program was announced in mid-April, giving eligible employers opportunity to receive a federally-guaranteed loan to cover 100% of the cost, provided they keep all their employees on payroll for up to eight weeks.

Aside from keeping all employees on payroll, the money can also be used to pay rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Loan payments will also be deferred for six months, and no collateral or personal guarantees are required.

In an earlier joint statement, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and U.S. Small Business Administrator Jovita Carranza said that the program is "providing critical support to millions of small businesses and tens of millions of Americans."

"We remain fully committed to ensuring that America's workers and small businesses get the resources they need to get through this challenging time."

A second appropriation for the Paycheck Protection Program was made available this month. About 56 Marianas businesses received $12.6 million in loans in the first round of funding. Applications for the Payroll Protection Program are being accepted since April 27.

As for the economic injury disaster loans, SBA offers them as a working capital for small businesses in the CNMI that have been financially impacted as a direct result of the coronavirus.

Small businesses, private non-profit organizations, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises impacted by COVID-19 since Jan. 31, 2020, may qualify to avail of up to $2 million economic injury disaster loan, to help with their operating expenses.

To avail of the economic injury disaster loan, small businesses may apply online, or download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. The deadline to apply is on Dec. 21, 2020.

POSITIVE

From Page 1

The new case, a 27-year-old female Saipan resident, had contact with a previously diagnosed COVID-19 cases who live in the CNMI, according to Esther Muña, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer. The individual was identified through contact tracing and was tested.

"Cooperation of primary contacts who were interviewed led to the discovery of secondary contacts, which allowed for quick identification and isolation of this individual in coordination with community-based testing," said the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force in a statement yesterday.

The individual is in stable and is isolated at the Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe. The patient is asymptomatic, which means she does not have any symptoms, and is being monitored by CHCC's medical teams. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts (close family members, friends, and associates) of the new case.

The CNMI's COVID-19 count is now at 22, with seven active cases, 13 recoveries, and two deaths.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force also wants to emphasize that "even if you've tested negative for the virus, or have already been infected with the virus and recovered, it is essential for everyone in the community to continue to practice strict social distancing, and avoid public places as much as possible."

Contact tracing plays a key role in reducing the spread of infection within the community. Contact tracing helps track down anyone who might have been infected by a person who was recently diagnosed so those contacts can quarantine themselves and prevent further spread.

"Contact tracing has helped slow or stop previous epidemics, such as the SARS and Ebola outbreaks. But it's never been more critical or more challenging—than in this fight against COVID-19," said the COVID-19 Task Force statement.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 64 individuals for COVID-19 last May 20 and a total of 11 tested positive; 53 tested negative.

To date, there have been 165 cases confirmed in Guam through COVID-19 testing, with six deaths and 125 released from isolation.

Additionally, due to the 11 new cases, plans to open dine-in service in Guam restaurants starting this Monday, is on hold.

This means large gatherings of more than 10 in a group will remain prohibited. Schools will also remain closed.

NMC

From Page 1

and preparation, we are optimistic that we will be able to welcome employees and students back to the campus this fall semester in a gradual, phased manner," he said.

The task force, Eliptico added, has already begun meeting. Among the action plans the task force is considering is mixing classes—online and in person.

The college plans to start the fall semester in August, but Eliptico said there is no definite date yet. "There are a lot of things under consideration," he added. "Information from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will guide us throughout the summer. …The health and safety of our students and employees continue to be the top priority, and because of this, our campus' reopening plans will be guided by information from the governor's COVID-19 Task Force, CHCC, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and other health agencies."

The task force is also looking at the possibility of requiring employees and students to be tested before returning to school, as well as giving masks and providing other materials to enhance safety upon the opening of the campus.

NMC is also considering installing Plexiglas shields at the cashier and during other activities that involve face-to-face interaction.

NMC will start its summer semester in June but the institution will continue to practice distance education.

‘Health clearance form not required for interisland travel’

Both the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force have clarified that a health clearance form is only required of interisland travelers when they arrive from off-island, are quarantined first on Saipan, and are then released so they could proceed with their travel to Rota or Tinian.

In a statement Wednesday, both gave the clarification after receiving several reports over the last several weeks from interisland travelers that Star Marianas Air is requiring their passengers to present a health clearance form before boarding their planes.

In a separate post on its Facebook page, Star Marianas Air said it is not requiring its passengers to present such a form for interisland travel.

There was no immediate clarification on the source of the contradicting reports but the Torres administration insisted Thursday that it is not requiring the health clearance form for interisland travel. The Office of the Governor statement said that the only directive regarding a health clearance form is specifically for quarantined travelers entering the CNMI and whose ultimate destination is Tinian or Rota.

“Upon completion of their quarantine, they will receive a health clearance form before departing for their home islands of Tinian or Rota,” the statement added.

There has been no public directive that requires travelers that are already within the CNMI to present a health clearance form prior to interisland travel, it added.

The statement said that CHCC has seen and received questions from many residents who specifically ask for a health clearance form, as instructed by Star Marianas Air, in order to fly to Tinian or Rota from Saipan.

“Furthermore, there has been no agreement, as of today, by CHCC or the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force to conduct health screening at the airports on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota for passengers. This would require additional CHCC and Task Force staff to the airports. This takes away from the overall effort of providing real patient care for COVID-19 at our hospital, health centers, medical care sites, and alternate care sites,” the statement added.

In order to prevent this from happening and to properly address Star Marianas Air’s concerns, the task force and CHCC announced that interisland travelers can get a health evaluation at the Medical Care and Treatment Site tent on the upper parking lot level of CHCC in order to board a Star Marianas Air flight. This can be accommodated while flights are limited; however, CHCC will have to re-evaluate if this can continue with increases in flights and without transferring the cost to the passengers.

“The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC believe in community partnership to keep the CNMI’s curve flat, and this includes working with private sector partners in order to address any concerns. We value Star Marianas Air’s partnership, and we look forward to continuing working with them,” the statement said. ***(PR)***

‘High court ruling on waiver issue will improve application of justice’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court’s ruling, which dismissed the appeal of the sentence imposed on convicted murderer Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan, will hold criminal defendants accountable for their decision to accept a plea deal, according to Chief Prosecutor John Bradley.

This, in turn, “will improve the application of justice in our courts,” Bradley told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday.

He believes Sablan’s case is the first successful motion to dismiss an appeal by the Commonwealth.

The CNMI Supreme Court dismissed Monday the appeal of Sablan, who was sentenced in 2018 to a 25-year prison term for killing his wife. The high court justices said that Sablan’s waiver of his right to appeal in his plea agreement was made knowingly and willingly, and that parole and probation fall within its scope.

The justices said Sablan has the burden to substantiate his claims to survive a motion to dismiss under the miscarriage of justice framework. “Sablan has not met his burden as to any of the claims,” said the high court’s order, which was penned by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and concurred by Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos.

In his reaction to the justices’ ruling, Bradley said he has been promoting as chief prosecutor the waiver of the right to appeal as part of their plea deals with criminal defendants. He said they have adjusted their paperwork to clarify that Sablan is giving up his right to appeal, making sure that the victim is protected from long appeals.

“So, we are glad to see that the Supreme Court approves of the waivers and is enforcing them against the defendant,” Bradley said.

According to court records, Sablan pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for killing his wife, Ana Maria Pialur Limes, who was found dead inside her house in Oleai/San Jose on April 20, 2015. Autopsy showed that she died of a skull fracture due to blunt force trauma. Sablan has been using methamphetamine at the time of the murder.

Under the plea bargain, the parties agreed that Sablan would be sentenced to 30 years’ imprisonment with five years suspended. He also agreed to a sentencing hearing to determine parole eligibility and probation conditions, if any.

The plea bargain included a provision that Sablan waived a number of procedural rights, including the right to appeal his sentence and disposition.

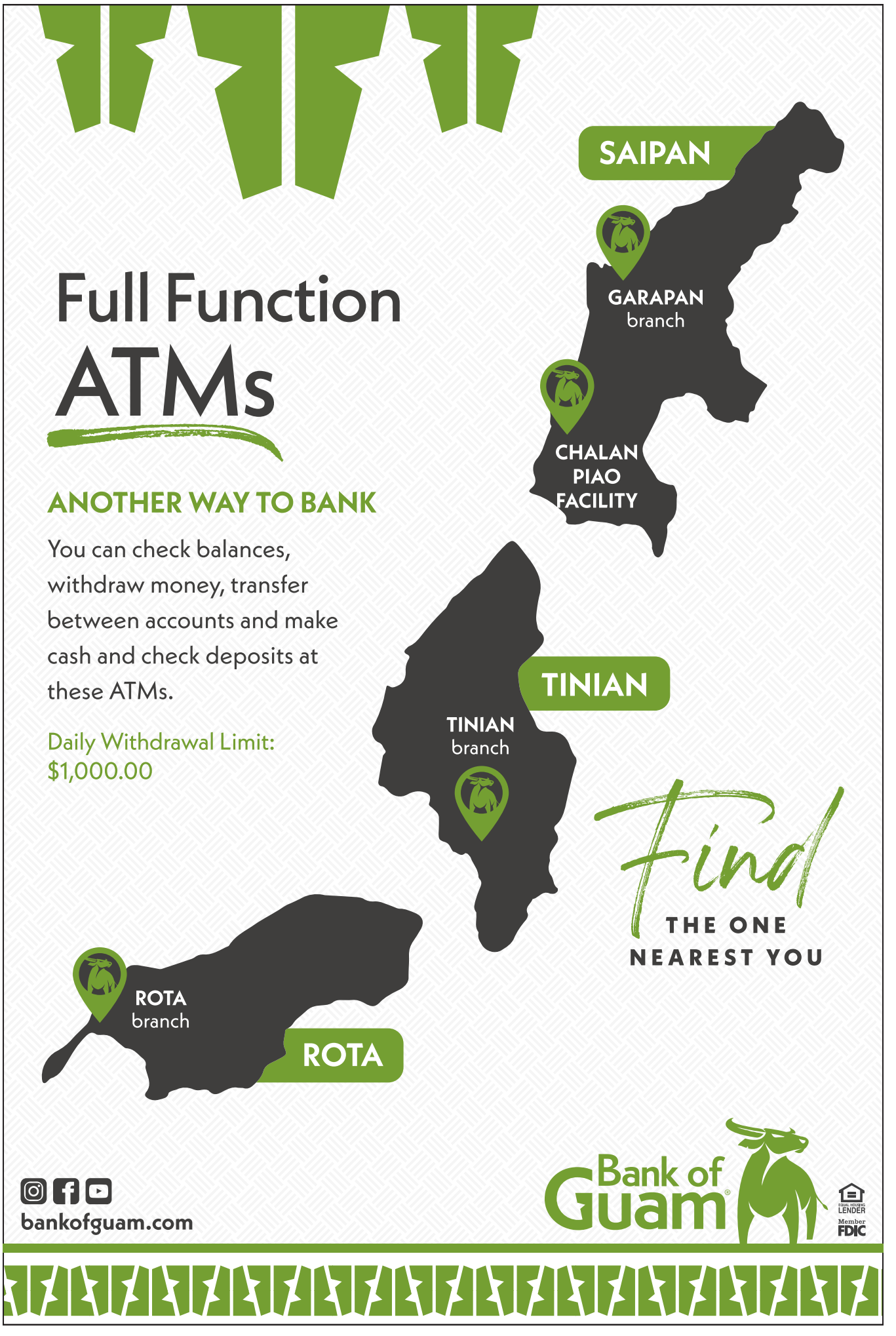
Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio sentenced Sablan in January 2018 to 25 years in prison with no possibility of parole. After completing his prison term, then-46-year-old Sablan will be placed on 10 years of probation.

Sablan, through assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues, appealed to the Supreme Court to reverse the disposition as to parole and probation.

Nogues argued, among other things, that the waiver should not be enforced, either because the issues on appeal are outside the scope of the waiver, or because enforcing it would constitute a miscarriage of justice.

In the government’s motion to dismiss the appeal, assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. argued that the waiver in the plea agreement bars the appeal.

In dismissing the appeal, the justices said Sablan agreed to the waiver knowingly and voluntarily and this is no barrier to the waiver’s validity. The justices found that the parole and probation determinations fall within the scope of the waiver.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 182 E 01 containing an area of approximately 4,545 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
ii. The prospective lessee is Triple Star International Corporation. The lists of officers for Triple Star International Corporation are Wei Gang Xiong, as President, Zhang Qing, as Corporate Secretary.
iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of Triple Star International Corporation, mainly Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of the providing recycling services that collect, recycle, and market scrap materials, and the retail sale of electronics and appliances.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 26, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Gi sigun Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannåna'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum henerått pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiño, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 182 E 01 ni konsisisti kåsi 4,545 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian måpa nu i påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.
ii. I "prospective lessee" i "Triple Star International Corporation". I listan i ufisiåt siha para i Triple Star International Corporation si Wei Gang Xiong, kumu Presidenti, Zhang Qing, kumu Sekritåriun "Corporate."
iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan manegosiu ginin i ufisiåt yan direktot i Triple Star International Corporation, mayutmentu si Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu na rason na para u pribeniyi "recycling" na sitbisiu ni ha rikohi, "recycle," yan bendi i mansopbla na matiriåt siha, yan para u fambendi "electronics" yan "appliances."

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusentu nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi' upiño, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di May 26, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

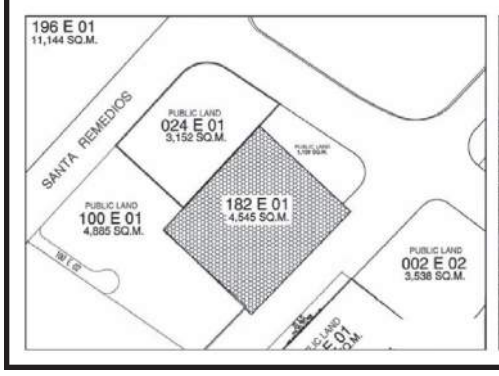
Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorongol ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay e bwáálo bwe Lot 182 E 01 ebwe bwáá bwe 4,545 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me website www.dpl.gov.mp
ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.
ii. Schóól Atkkilóón nge Triple Star International Corporation. Ikkal list-al "officers" me Triple Star International Corporation nge Wei Gang Xiong, bwe "President", Zhang Qing, Bwe "Corporate Secretary".
iii. Pommwol Atkkilóón nge e angúúngú ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi "officers" me "directors-il" Triple Star International Corporation, i Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. Schóól Atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw bwulul ebwe ayoorai angaangil "recycling" iye ebwe bweibwogh, "recycle", me "market scrap materials", me akkaméélól "electronics" me "appliances".

Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel percentage sángi appraised fair market value reel falúw ebwal schuulong applicable percentage reel Business Gross Receipts llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli Atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Lower Base, Seipél.
vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwali May 26, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



THINGS TO KNOW

As of May 21, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

SFA raffle draw postponed to December

The Tasi to Table Youth Fishing Club and the Saipan Fishermen's Association have rescheduled the raffle slated for July 2020 to Dec. 12, 2020, at 3pm, at the Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan. Persons need not be present to win. Winners will be contacted to pick up prizes. For mode details, click on **link** at www.saipantribune.com.

The grand prize is a brand new 16-foot Morning Star aluminum hull boat with a 60hp 4-stroke outboard motor that comes with a trailer, Bimini top, hand-held VHF radio, navigation lights, fuel tank, life jackets and emergency flare set. A complete boat package was originally to be offered during the SFA's 36th annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament slated for July 2020.

Updated Government Resource list

The CNMI government has issued an updated government resource listing as of May 19, 2020, which includes all government offices and agencies that are operational and offering services to the public during the governor›s public health emergency. See Page 10 of today's *Saipan Tribune*. For additional details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

JKPL reopens with limited services

Effective yesterday, May 21, 2020, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library facility reopened for limited public services by appointment only to ensure health and safety of our patrons. Also, effective yesterday, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hours of operation will be from Tuesday to Friday, from 9am to 4pm. For more details, click on **link** at www.saipantribune.com.

CUC Customer Center hours

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public of its new business hours for the CUC Customer Center. The center will be open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 3pm to assist customers with their CUC accounts and/or payment to CUC/ prepaid load purchase.

Customers are also encouraged to use the following options for CUC bill payments:

- For online payments, log into www.cucgov.org
- For pay-by-phone, dial 1-855-729-2282
- Other locations for CUC bill payment: Bank of Saipan, Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii

For emergencies, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) and monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates.

OVR resumes normal office hours

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's office hours have resumed back to Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Modified VR services during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be in effect. Individuals needing to apply for OVR services are still encouraged to reach out to OVR via phone at (670) 322-6537 / 6538. A staff member will provide further information on our modified processes.

If you have access to the internet and would like more information, visit www.ovrgov.net to view OVR requirements. If you do not have access to the internet, inform our offices and an information/ referral/ orientation packet will be mailed to you.

BECQ announces updated hours of operation

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has announced that they are now providing services to the public from Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm, during the current government shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BECQ will be practicing social distancing and safety measures for the protection of their visitors and staff. The designated visitor's entrance will be the BECQ main entrance and visitors parking will be in the front of the BECQ building. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com

FAQs: Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act

The Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act encourages businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to $10,000 in wages paid by an eligible employer whose business has been financially impacted by COVID-19. For details, go to https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-employee-retention-credit-under-the-cares-act.

How Trump admin is supporting the CNMI

The Trump administration outlines how it is supporting the people of the CNMI in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA outlines telehealth service changes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a summary of key service changes to increase the use of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include allowing rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as "distant site" providers, increasing the types of services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can deliver via telehealth, and allowing certain telehealth services to be delivered to Medicare recipients by phone. For details, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/289d418.

USDA RD takes steps to help

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for more information. Or click on https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/2894700.

SBA Fact Sheet

The U.S. Small Business Administration has issued a "Fact Sheet for the CNMI" about the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Read it by clicking on the link at www.saipantribune.com.

Commerce Department in operation

The CNMI Department of Commerce will continue to provide services to the CNMI business community via means of teleworking.

For direct support and services, the CNMI is advised to contact the support team via the department's website at info@commerce.gov.mp and indicate the attention to the respective division or section for the appropriate services. See DOC advisory at the link at www.saipantribune.com.

FBI alert vs online scams

FBI issue an alert to the public to be on the lookout for scams that exploit the current COVID-19 pandemic. See FBI advisory at the link on www.saipantribune.com.

Process for mass testing

Mass testing for COVID-19 is ongoing at the Saipan International Airport. The test is free. People interested in being tested for COVID-19 can request for an appointment for specimen collection on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. website at https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php or over the phone through the COVID-19 Info Line. For more information, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

MENS 3/4 SLV BASEBALL TEE $5 ea.

BOYS S/S T-SHIRT 676 $6 ea.

DUFFEL BAG HOLOGRAPHIC ASST $4 ea.

24 PC DOOR & DRAWER KIT $10

DINER STYLE SERVING BASKET 6PK $8

ULTRA SOFT SHEET SET TWIN 1200 $15

MENS FOX TEE SHIRTS $8 ea.

CUTIE GIRLS SOLID TEE SHORT SLV $5 ea.

TOTE BAGS ASSORTED $8 ea.

42 PC OUTLET & APPLNC KIT $10

LASKO BOXED FAN 3 SPEED 20" $30

J&M FUZZY FLC THROW 50x60ASST $10 ea.

MENS TWILL SHORTS BROWN $5

DISNEY WALL CLOCK $10 ea

TRAVEL PILLOW MEMORY FOAM $5 ea.

STROLLER RAIN COVER $1 ea.

MR.COFFEE 12CUP COFFEEMAKER $20

DISH CLOTHS BSKT WVE 13x13 3CT 50¢ ea.

JUNIOR S/S CHARACTER CROP TEE $4 ea.

COSMETIC BRUSH SET 3 PC $4

DELUXE SECURITY BOX $10 ea.

JERGENS LOTION 8 OZ/10 OZ $2.50 ea.

STAINLESS POT 28CM $50

FOAM BATH RUG ASST $15

2020 71st Anniversary SALE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 TO SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20# $12

TABLE MAPLE BACON 1# $2

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz $1.50 ea.

PALM CORNED BEEF 11.5oz $3.50 ea.

KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR $5 ea.

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50# $28

SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44# $20

HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12pk $6.98 ea.

JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY 1000ml $40 ea.

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk $3

SALE

MARKET/ORGANIC ITEMS AVAILABLE

U.S. EGGS LARGE WHITE 1DZ $3.99

U.S. EGGS MEDIUM LOOSE 2.5dz $3.99

U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 1DZ/TRY $2.99

U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WHT 2.5DZ /TR $6.99

MOM 2X COCO ROOS BAG 23.6z $4.99

MOM COOKIES & CREAM BAG 21z $4.99 ea.

MOM CRL APPLE ZING BAG 24.4oz $4.99 ea.

JELLO PUDDING VANILLA 5.1oz $1.29 ea.

U.S./N.Z. ONION YELLOW 49¢ ea.

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

‘Not known if broken toothbrush had been used vs barber’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A broken toothbrush, which was described by police as the hand-made knife that was allegedly used by an inmate to stab a barber, is not known at this time if it was used in the alleged assault.

This was among the findings that Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho discussed in his amended order yesterday that found no probable cause to charge Kennedy Masubed with assault with a dangerous weapon.

That charge was dismissed without prejudice; this means the Office of the Attorney General can re-file the charge if police or the OAG obtain more evidence to support the charge.

Camacho, however, found probable cause to charge the 46-year-old Masubed with assault and battery.

He directed Masubed to respond to the charge.

In his amended order, Camacho said there was no blood on the toothbrush handle and that there was a very small bruise on the barber’s head. “The bruise…does not appear to be a puncture wound,” the judge said.

Camacho pointed out that Department of Public Safety police officer Freddie Guerrero never interviewed the barber as the latter had already been taken to the Commonwealth Health Center, nor was the court given more information on the medical treatment the alleged victim received.

He said DPS police detective Kevin Maratita drafted his affidavit for an arrest warrant against Masubed and relied on Guerrero’s report and photos taken. The judge said Maratita did not interview the barber, did not read Masubed his constitutional rights, and did not interrogate the defendant.

Camacho said Maratita was informed by a DOC officer that internal DOC cameras do not cover the area when the alleged incident occurred.

At the preliminary hearing Wednesday, assistant attorney general Erin Toolan called both Guerrero and Maratita to the witness stand.

It was Guerrero who went to DOC in Susupe after receiving a call about a disturbance. Upon arriving at DOC, Guerrero interviewed two DOC officers.

Camacho said no one saw Masubed stab the barber.

He said the DOC officers only saw the defendant hitting the barber with his hand or fist. The judge said DOC officers only found the broken toothbrush handle after securing Masubed.

Assistant public defender Vina Seelan served as counsel for Masubed.

Police said Masubed beat up and stabbed the barber with the plastic shiv soon after the barber cut his hair inside DOC last May 7. Police said Masubed admitted assaulting the barber because he is gay.

Police said the barber had wounds on the top of his head and left temple and was brought to CHC for treatment.

Police procured from the DOC Internal Affairs the hand-made knife that was recovered as evidence against Masubed.

LIHEAP now open to receive applicants

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, is now open to receive new and renewal of applications. Contact Resel Billy at 989-2577 or via email resel.billy@liheap.gov.mp to schedule appointment.

LIHEAP assists low-income families through Commonwealth Utilities Corp. subsidy benefits for cooling assistance and energy crisis assistance.

Eligibility requirements: applicant must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident; applicant must be the CUC account holder; applicant must have a social security number; applicant must fall within the low income bracket

Documents required upon applying are: Birth Certificate or Passport for household members; social security card of all for household members; proof of income (three latest check stub); CUC bill.

The program’s business hours are from 8am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, at the Carolinian Affairs Office. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LEONISA FLORES MARATITA, Decedent.) **CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0134**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Date: June 4, 2020 Time: 10:00 am Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE LEONISA FLORES MARATITA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Lenette Flores Maratita, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Leonisa Flores Maratita and to appoint her as the Administratrix. The attorney for Ms. Lenette F. Maratita is Colin M. Thompson.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration and Appointment of Administratrix is scheduled to be heard on June 4, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Guma’ Hustisia Supreme Court Courtroom, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Leonisa Flores Maratita or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within **Sixty (60) days** of the first publication, or the claims will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to:

THOMPSON LAW, LLC
2nd Floor J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 233-0777
Fax: (670) 233-0776
Email: Cmtlaw@live.com

SO ORDERED THIS 20th day of May, 2020.

HON. JUDGE JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LUIS SABLAN CAMACHO, Deceased.) **Civil Action No. 20-0011**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF PARTIAL DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Partial Distribution in the above entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 4th day of June, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

It is further ordered, to avoid any unnecessary delays: (a) those who will be attending in-person in the courtroom, COVID-19 protective measures such as social distancing, use of mask and sanitizers, etc. are enforced. (b) those who will be attending via video conference shall file a Request with a Proposed Order. If granted, the party(ies)/attorney(s) shall contact the Deputy Clerk Adeline Tereyama at (670) 235-4261 or via email at adeline.tereyama@nmijudiciary.com to test the video conference system in advance.

Dated this 21st of May, 2020.

/s/ Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOROTHEA ITIBUS ILO, Deceased.) **Civil Action No. 19-0330**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 4th day of June, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

It is further ordered, to avoid any unnecessary delays: (a) those who will be attending in-person in the courtroom, COVID-19 protective measures such as social distancing, use of mask and sanitizers, etc. are enforced. (b) those who will be attending via video conference shall file a Request with a Proposed Order. If granted, the party(ies)/attorney(s) shall contact the Deputy Clerk Adeline Tereyama at (670) 235-4261 or via email at adeline.tereyama@nmijudiciary.com to test the video conference system in advance.

Dated this 21st of May, 2020.

/s/ Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(6) Trash Collector - Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver’s license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

(2) Security Guard - Wide security experience in access systems, patrolling, investigative procedures, incident report writing, and customer service. Willing to work flexible time.

(3) Househelper - Experienced in household chores. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
AYD SERVICES, INC.
Tel.# 235-7011
AYD Compound, Beach Road, San Antonio, Saipan, MP 96950

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) Silk Screen Printer – Highschool Diploma and atleast 3 months work experience in operating manual and automatic rotary silk screen printing press equipment.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing LLC.
Ground Floor, Afetna Building,
Beach Road,
San Antonio Village,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-1680

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
JOB VACANCY

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, curect police clearance and a copy of valid CNMI driver’s license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020 AT 4:00PM

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of May 22, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Marianas Geotech Services	04/13/2020 SPI-2020-X-044	Geotechnical Investigation of Delta Dock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/21/2020
2.	Triple J Corporation	05/13/2020 SS-2020-X-046	Geotechnical Soil Investigation	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 05/08/2020
3.	Windsurfing Saipan, Inc.	05/14/2020 SLR-2020-X-047	Windsurfing, Stand Up Paddle, Kayaking, & Snorkeling	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
4.	Success International Corporation	05/19/2020 SMS-2020-X-048	New Hope Rock Quarry	Marpi, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
5.	Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel	05/19/2020 SLR-2018-X-185-R3	Sailboat, Kayaking, Snorkeling, & Stand Up Paddle	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
6.	Heinz S. Hofschneider	SPI-2020-X-049	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Robert Tenorio Torres, (F0197)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No.: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner (Pro Bono)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: Abigail Jane Yu Minor Child By: Michael Satorre Garcia Petitioner) **FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0100**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that a hearing on the Petition for Adoption in the above-entitled matter is set for July 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Marianas Business Plaza Courtroom before Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, *Guma’ Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 13 day of April, 2020.

/s/
By: Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

MVA spreads message of hope near and far

From left, Soarin Jeong Hyun Oh, Filomenaleonisa Iakopo, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, and Elizabeth Babauta pose on May 20, 2020, with one of six signs voluntarily painted by the students and posted at the MVA office in San Jose and Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan.

MVA

From left, Soarin Jeong Hyun Oh, Elizabeth Babauta, and Filomenaleonisa Iakopo pose on May 20, 2020, at Garapan Fishing Base with signs they voluntarily painted to spread a message of hope to the Marianas community.

MVA

Spreading goodwill to friends near and far, the Marianas Visitors Authority and local community partners are conveying a message of hope during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This week, the MVA placed six signboards with inspirational messages at Garapan Fishing Base and outside the tourism bureau's San Jose office on Saipan. The signboards were voluntarily painted by local school students on reused A-frames from the MVA's annual sporting events. "Un Familia, Un Guinaya, Inafa'maolek, Tipiyeew," (One Family, One Love, Unity), "United in Our Resilience," and "Marianas Strong," read several of the signs. The artwork was done by middle school students Soarin Jeong Hyun Oh, Filomenaleonisa Iakopo, and Elizabeth Babauta.

Earlier this month, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo was featured in a video message highlighting the world's unity. The message was shared on the MVA's social media channels in English, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese.

"In the Marianas archipelago, we have a saying that the ocean between our islands does not separate us, but rather, it unites us," Iakopo said. "During this difficult time of COVID-19, quarantine and social distancing, the world finds itself separated as never before However, this challenge has also proven that as families, neighbors, communities, and one world, we are also united more than ever... united in our resilience and united in our determination to overcome. We all look forward to the day when we can continue to socialize and live our lives as we once did, with the reminder that across all distances, we are one world family. In the Marianas, we look forward to that day, and we look forward to the return of visitors to our beautiful islands. The Marianas Visitors Authority stands ready to welcome you. Until then, take care of yourselves and each other."

Production services for the video were donated by Island Image & Motion.

In addition, the MVA has launched a series of contests on Facebook and Instagram encouraging participants to demonstrate various skills while they stay home. #ChowMarianas awarded Rex Getty first place for his entry on making banana *bunuelos*. #ColorMarianas is now accepting short videos of original artwork from children ages 12 and submitted via their parents' social media account. The deadline to enter is Wednesday, May 27, at 11:59pm ChST. Contest details are available on Facebook at My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority) or on Instagram at #TheMarianas.

MVA offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are open this week from 8am to 12pm and will be open for regular working hours beginning Monday, May 26. ***(PR)***

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo shares a message of hope to Marianas friends near and far via Facebook and Instagram on May 5, 2020. Production services on the multilingual message were donated by Island Image & Motion.

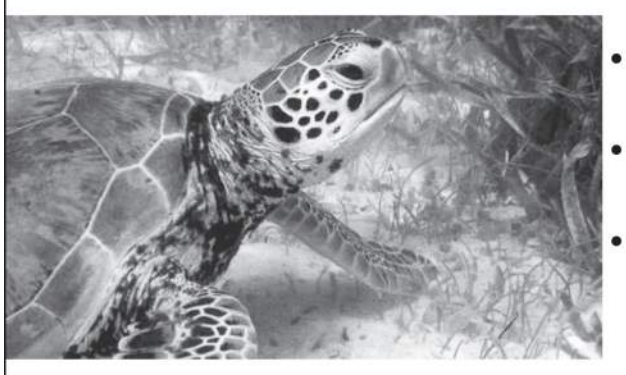
MVA

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY (MVA) PRESENTS
#ColorMarianas
STAY HOME MARIANAS CHALLENGE
Tag Us & Use Hashtags: #StayHomeMarianas #ColorMarianas
Post a video of your kids coloring and holding up their artworks to
WIN AWESOME PRIZES!
@MyMarianas @TheMarianas
The Marianas

The Marianas Visitors Authority invites all children ages 12 and younger to join its #ColorMarianas social media contest and submit original artwork of select tourist sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Visit @MyMarianas on Facebook or @TheMarianas on Instagram for contest details.

MVA

SPACE FOR RENT
Located at Middle Road corner
Quarter Master, Chalan Laulau
Office – 3,200 sq. ft.
Warehouse – 6,000 sq. ft.
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
Please call us at 322-8733/7415 or send email to
wushin2@pticom.com for more inquiry.

Sea Turtles
more valuable
alive than dead!
These endangered marine reptiles help the CNMI flourish in many ways.

- Sea turtles maintain the health of sea grass beds and coral reefs.
- They help balance marine food webs by controlling prey populations, like jellyfish.
- Sea turtles boost tourism and the economy through marine recreational activities.
- In the CNMI, these animals hold a significant cultural value, but there are less than 20 nesting females in the population!

Help sustain CNMI's sea turtle population!
Avoid purchasing or wearing sea turtle decoration or jewelry.
Do not harvest or hunt sea turtles. Do not consume their meat.
DLNR Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline
670-287-8537
Anonymous reports welcomed on poaching activities and injured/dead/stranded sea turtles.

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Regalia drive-thru distribution for NMC graduates starts today

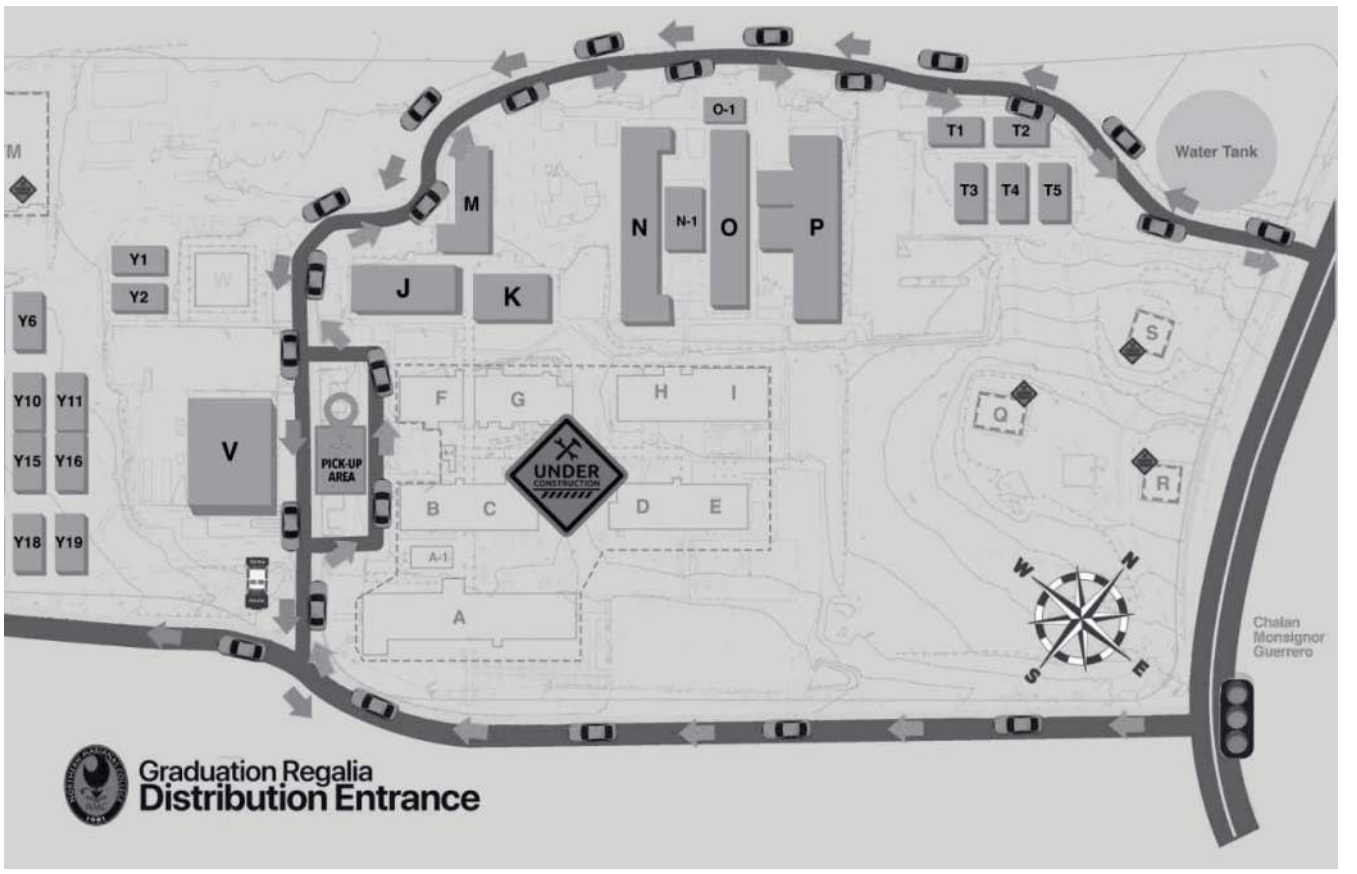
The graduation ceremony for the Northern Marianas College has been postponed until December 2020. However, the college will be commemorating the graduates' achievement over the next few days on various online and traditional platforms.

The college announced through email to its graduates that it will be distributing caps, gowns, and diplomas for its graduating class of 2020 on Friday, May 22, and Saturday, May 23, at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

Distribution times are from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Friday, and 8:30am to 12:30pm on Saturday. Graduates can enter either at the NMC entrance next to the water tank or the entrance at the stoplight.

Graduates are also asked to bring a valid form of identification such as a CNMI driver's license, mayor's ID, or a passport.

See graphical representation of how the distribution will be done. ***(PR)***



Graphic shows the distribution line.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Governor's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      a. Regular Board Meeting – March 12, 2020
      b. Emergency Board Meeting – March 15, 2020
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance Committee
      a. Fund Status Report
4) **Old Business**
   1. Crisis Management
5) **Executive Session**
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Regular Board meeting** via telephone conference on **Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of Minutes
      1. January 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
      2. January 23, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
      3. March 25, 2020 Special Board Meeting
      4. April 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
      5. May 1, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
   E. Correspondence
II. Old Business
   A. Correspondence to Executive Branch
III. New Business
   A. Procurement Matters
IV. Public Comments*
V. Executive Session**
   (Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters, Contracts, and Board Communications)
VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Aircraft carrier returns to sea after coronavirus outbreak

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—After nearly two months sidelined in Guam with a coronavirus outbreak, the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* has gone out to sea for training, in preparation to return to duty in the Pacific.

The ship has been docked in Guam since March 27, as the 4,800 crew members went through rotations of quarantine, and more than 1,000 of them have tested positive for the virus over that time.

"It feels great to be back at sea," Rear Adm. Stu Baker, commander of Carrier Strike Group 9, said in a statement. "Getting *Theodore Roosevelt* and Carrier Air Wing 11 one step closer to returning to their mission in the Indo-Pacific is a great achievement for the crew."

In an Associated Press interview from the aircraft carrier earlier this week, Navy Capt. Carlos Sardiello said the ship will sail with a scaled-back crew of about 3,000, leaving about 1,800 sailors on shore who are still in quarantine or working with those who are. The sailors in quarantine include up to 14 who recently tested positive again for the virus, just days after getting cleared to return to the carrier.

The puzzling COVID-19 reappearance in the sailors adds to the difficulty in getting the ship's crew healthy again, and fuels questions about the quality of the testing and just how long sailors may remain infected or contagious.

The ship plans to conduct required carrier qualifications for about two weeks, including recertification of the flight deck and fighter squadron, such as takeoffs and landings on the carrier. The ship will then return to Guam and pick up healthy crew members. If all goes well, it will set out again to conduct operations before eventually heading home to San Diego.

The ship has been extensively cleaned, and crew members are taking a wide range of precautions to prevent another outbreak, including social distancing, repeated medical checks, wearing masks and allowing fewer sailors in the mess halls at one time.

"I think we have set the conditions for a high probability of success, and we're going to go to sea and do our mission," Sardiello told the AP.

The *Roosevelt* was at the center of a controversy that led to the firing of the ship's previous captain, the resignation of the Navy secretary and an expanded investigation into what triggered the outbreak and how well top naval commanders handled it.

"It was an unprecedented challenge to get to this point and I'm proud of the Rough Rider Team's tenacity and resiliency in the face of uncertainty," Sardiello said in a statement issued as the carrier left Guam. "We are extremely thankful for the dedicated support and hospitality of Gov. Leon Guerrero, her staff and the people Guam."

STAFF SGT. JORDAN E. GILBERT/U.S. MARINE CORPS

In this photo provided by the U.S. Marine Corps, the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* departs Apra Harbor at Naval Base Guam on Thursday, May 21, 2020, following an extended visit to Guam in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ship left Guam on Thursday and went out to sea for training.

Managaha, Grotto remain closed during pandemic

Managaha Island and the Grotto remain closed until further notice, as part of efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Marianas.

In a reminder yesterday from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, it said the two sites, which are popular with both tourists and residents alike, remain closed to the public pursuant to Directive 14 of the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives of 2020.

All other public beaches and pathways are open for individual use of exercise and wellness, including swimming and shoreline fishing.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. encourage residents to continue good hygiene, practice social distancing, avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people, and avoid unnecessary travel to help prevent the spread of this deadly illness.

For additional information on the COVID-19 response in the CNMI, visit the CNMI Office of the Governor's official website at www.governor.gov.mp or follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. ***(PR)***

Pandemic knocks out large sections of Hawaii's economy

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—In normal times, Roland Chang and his three sons start their day at dawn, picking up tourists in Waikiki and driving them to the ocean for a boat ride to see dolphins and turtles swimming in clear blue waters. Four nights a week, the family's band performs Hawaiian music and popular songs at a hotel.

Their friends call them workaholics. To them, it's a routine. Or was until the coronavirus pandemic landed in Hawaii.

Like many businesses in tourism-dependent Hawaii, the Changs' company has had no income for two months. And they don't know if it will survive to see a post-COVID-19 world. But they agree with the restrictions imposed in the name of public health. And the family, who is Native Hawaiian, believes there will be rebirth afterward. Roland Chang's sister NJ compared the wreckage to the way the fire goddess lays waste when a volcano erupts and lava flows across the land.

"Madam Pele has always cleaned out. I think that's what we're going through," said NJ Chang, a school teacher and band vocalist and guitar player. "This is a cleaning out process, I believe, for us to all heal."

Much healing will be required.

A University of Hawaii survey of 623 businesses conducted with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii showed 34% had no revenue last month. In Maui County—which is even more heavily reliant on tourism than the rest of the state—that number was 61%.

Among arts, entertainment and recreation companies—which include tours like the Changs'—employment has declined 82% compared to January. Revenues in 2020 are forecast to sink 65% from last year.

The numbers are similarly ugly for hotels and almost as bad for restaurants and retailers. Statewide, the unemployment rate is estimated to be between 25% and 35%. Food distribution events run by the Salvation Army and other nonprofits draw lines of cars that stretch for miles.

The Changs are living on savings. Their company, EO Waianae Tours, which has four full-time employees, applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan for small businesses to help them get through the crisis. They're not applying for unemployment benefits.

AP

In this May 5, 2020, photo Kanilau, the Chang family's band, plays music for a livestream performance from the living room of Roland Chang's home in Honolulu.

They have some investment funds they were thinking about using to expand their business but they may now hold off because the future is so uncertain. Their tour business may even have to close.

"I think there are a lot more questions than answers," Roland Chang said. "I've got to guarantee that everyone on my boat won't get the virus. How do I protect them?"

Among the unknowns: Do they reduce the number of people on their boat (it can hold up to 26 passengers and four crew) so everyone can practice social distancing? Will they have to raise their tour rates to break even as a result? Will they need disposable snorkel gear for clients instead of lending them gear as in the past? Will travelers even come?

"On the totem pole of life right now, people are just trying to put food on the table. Until that gets rectified, it's going to be hard to say how many people are going to actively, consistently keep the tour business open," he said.

To slow the spread of the virus, Hawaii Gov. David Ige issued a stay-at-home order in late March and mandated that all travelers adhere to a strict 14-day quarantine when they arrive in the islands. The number of tourists has slowed to a trickle of about 200 per day, down from 30,000 before the pandemic.

Roland Chang said he supports these moves, given they are so important to protect the elderly who are more vulnerable to the disease.

"They're at the higher risk level. Without them, we don't have a future. So let's keep them going. Tourism will heal itself," he said.

Just like the plants that sprout from lava fields years after molten rock covers the land, he said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

For now, the family's band, Kanilau, streams an hour-long show on Facebook from Roland's living room once a week. The hotel cocktail hour they normally would be performing at has been suspended since late March but the hotel, Embassy Suites in Waikiki, posts the living room session on its Facebook page. Repeat guests who have listened to them for years leave comments like "Aloha from Minnesota!" and "Canada loves you guys."

They don't get paid for their livestream. But the songs keep them going emotionally. Even if the tour business doesn't survive, they vow the band will.

"It's in our DNA," NJ Chang said.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
RFQ20-GOV-068

Request for Qualification for Provisions of Architect/ Engineering Services
702 CIP Project Management Services

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "**Commonwealth**") are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Capital Improvement Projects funded under the 702 Covenant Funding.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Selected Architects and Engineers (Project Managers) will be retained as independent contractors under the General Provision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a one year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineers, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultant.

Compensation for Project Managers services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for appoved staff and expenses. The Commonwealth will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services as a prime consultant advertised under the Capital Improvement Program.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Office of Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning May 13, 2020 during working hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – (Monday through Friday, except on holiday). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of personnel or sub-consultants – 40%
2. Past Experience and Performance as a Project Manager – 40%
3. Project Methodology – 20%
4. Fee Proposal – 0%

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Questions regarding this RFQ must be in writing and submitted to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail or fax number 670-664-2408.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV-068", **Project Management Services for the 702 CIP Projects**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the qualification statement and in electronic form (USB) must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 9:00 a.m., on June 8, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on June 8, 2020** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cmnidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the sealed qualifications statement and in electronic (USB) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 8, 2020, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m.,ChST on June 17, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs, RFPs and RFQs)

• Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)

• Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

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Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-016

Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Equipment Supply and Services (Design, Engineering and Supervision - Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training and Handover) of 1 complete new engine system. Bidders must note that new Cummins engine will replace Cummins engine no. 3 at the CUC Rota Power Plant in the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) or ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE'S AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR from which CUC intends to select one Bidder and enter into a contract agreement for CUC's power supply requirements

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota on **June 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-20-016" Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW***" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the IFB. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Bid price must accompany the Bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid package, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The New Normal...

EDITORIAL

Speed over safety in the quest for a coronavirus vaccine is a recipe for disaster

As health experts keep reminding us, life will not return to anything resembling pre-pandemic normal until there is an effective and widely available coronavirus vaccine. And, as they also keep reminding us, it will take at least a year to do the testing and clinical trials necessary to ensure that a vaccine candidate is safe for mass production.

So it's more than a little unsettling that President Donald Trump's effort to expedite a vaccine for COVID-19 has a significantly shortened timeline, one that seems suspiciously connected to the political calendar rather than sound science.

Operation Warp Speed, as its name implies, aims not just to have a viable vaccine candidate by the end of the year, but to have 300 million doses ready for the American public by January through a joint effort of government and the pharmaceutical industry. It's an aspirational deadline, to be sure, but one that suggests shortcuts to the usual scientific standards.

History is filled with tales of slapdash efforts that had disastrous results. The one relevant to this moment is the terrible mishap that occurred in the rush to stop a polio outbreak in the 1940s and '50s that was killing thousands of Americans, many of them children, and paralyzing many others. After a year of clinical trials, a vaccine was licensed to six companies to manufacture quickly to meet the demand of a desperately worried public.

But some of the batches made by California-based Cutter Laboratories failed to deactivate the live virus and ended up causing 40,000 polio infections, killing 10 children and leaving dozens more paralyzed. The incident led to better government oversight of vaccine production, but it's also a cautionary tale about cutting regulatory corners.

And it seems they have to be cut to meet such an ambitious deadline. "I don't see a path by which you can collect enough efficacy and safety data by the end of the year," one member of a National Institutes of Health private-public partnership working on a COVID-19 vaccine told Science magazine. Even Trump's own experts suggest the timeline is unrealistic.

Typically it takes years, not months, to complete the three phases of clinical trials that take place before a vaccine can be marketed. In the first phase, a small number of volunteers receive the vaccine candidate and are monitored by researchers who collect data about how it affects the participants.

In the second and third phase, an increasingly large group of participants representing different subsets of the population are inoculated with the proposed vaccine. These phases ensure that a successful vaccine candidate is safe for a broad

See SPEED on Next Page

Congress offers the help the economy desperately needs

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.*

The economy isn't going to bounce back quickly on its own from the coronavirus pandemic. State reopenings, premature or not, will restore a modicum of economic activity, but it won't be enough to put many local businesses in the black. If the virus comes roaring back in states that reopen, it will cause a wave of fear that will depress demand and send some places back into lockdown. Meanwhile, wary consumers are saving their money, which will depress demand. And global trade networks and supply chains will remain in shambles for some time as the pandemic reverberates around the world. Meanwhile, although the pace of unemployment claims has slowed slightly, millions of Americans continue to lose their jobs.

The federal government therefore can't afford to let up on its attempts to relieve Americans' pain and preserve as much economic activity as possible. The $2 trillion CARES Act was an encouraging example of bold bipartisan action that addressed many of the country's most urgent needs back in late March. But as Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell emphasized last week and is likely to reiterate in Senate testimony today, the country is overdue for another round of stimulus.

The House of Representatives last week passed its version of that second round, called the HEROES Act. The $3 trillion spending bill is unlikely to make it through the Republican-controlled Senate without substantial changes, but it represents a good opening bid.

The most important element of the House relief plan is money for state and local governments. Although the pandemic has increased their spending needs, many of these governments are limited in their ability to spend by balanced-budget amendments written into state constitutions. Even those that are not typically have to pay much higher interest rates to borrow than the federal government. Thus, it makes financial sense for the federal government to take most of the financial burden off smaller governments.

The House bill does this, with $500 billion for state governments and $375 billion for local governments. The former number lines up with a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a center-left think tank, which predicts a $500 billion state budget shortfall during the next three years. Those numbers are likely to be reduced in the final bill, and that's fine; for example, some of the local government spending is redundant because states use some of their budgets to support localities. But robust relief to state and local governments will help avoid one of the biggest mistakes of the Great Recession.

A second important piece of the bill is more funding for test-and-trace efforts. Most of the U.S. still doesn't have enough testing or contact tracing to suppress future outbreaks of the virus. As a number of economists and public health experts have pointed out, these suppression capabilities offer the single highest return on investment that government spending can get right now. Test-and-trace systems are the essential tool used by New Zealand, South Korea and other countries that have contained COVID-19. With the threat of the virus in check, economic reopening will be safe from sudden reversals.

When it comes to economic relief for households, though, the House bill could use some improvement. The bill's main approach is to double down on the strategies in the CARES Act—modest one-time universal payments of $1,200 per person, plus a big extension of supersized unemployment-insurance benefits through the end of the year.

This is a lot of money, which is good. But much more of it should be in the form of universal payments and less in the form of unemployment benefits. The main reason is that many unemployed Americans have had trouble accessing the benefits that the CARES Act allotted to them, and there's no reason to expect anything different in the coming months. State unemployment systems are not equipped to deal with the number or scale of the requests being made. So far, this has meant that a very large share of unemployed workers—by some estimates, almost half—have either been denied benefits or are still waiting.

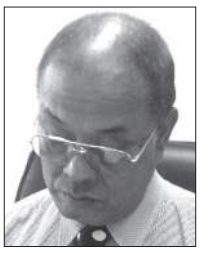
This is unacceptable. So far, workers either denied or forced to wait have been spending down their savings, but there's no way that can continue for the rest of 2020.

If the government wants to both minimize human suffering and cushion the long-term blow to consumer demand, it should shift much of the relief effort away from the unemployment-insurance system and toward universal payments. Instead of a one-time payment of $1,200 per person, the relief bill should include recurring universal payments for the rest of the year. Because these payments are administered through the tax system, they're much quicker and more reliable than state unemployment checks. Also, because they're universal instead of based on employment status, these payments are less likely to deter workers from going back to work quickly once the pandemic threat has passed.

The time for worrying about benefit targeting has passed. This depression is going to affect all Americans, and the solution is a relief bill that focuses more on supporting all Americans.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Starting anew



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

A plan is in the works to "restart" the local economy per a recent administration announcement. Sounds hopeful but I don't recall seeing a plan anywhere in recent years.

Had there been a plan it would have been promoted from the outset. But there's no plan so how could there be any basis for a "restart" on an issue that was never begun? Did you get that, pal?

The issue requires returning to the drawing board for factual preparation. Why promote perceptual plans that stir more queries than answers?

Bien felis

We join the family in prayers for former speaker Jose Lifoifoi, who recently passed away. The former speaker was among the founding fathers of the CNMI's contemporary governmental system.

In spite of his fiduciary duty he never lost his grand sense of humor. Our prayers and thanks for all your contributions and let your journey home be guided by His heavenly angels. Si yuus maase` yan ghilisow!

Heard

I was in government for over 27 years and remember running into plans costing millions of dollars left to collect dust in various office shelves. Here we are again, threatening to embrace the same scheme. It must be part of our DNA or did we adopt one thinking it's the latest innovation to derail work in perpetuity?

Would the planned restart pick up where we are today, improving upon our mini-tourism industry and other areas? Is it equally safe to assume that the plan may never be moved beyond pushing false public information? Yep! It seems we've heard that song before!

Ooops!

Learned that federal unemployment checks pay more than what regular jobs pay. The drawback is what's called "unintended consequence."

Must be reconciled so hardworking taxpayers don't pay for the "happy days" of the unemployed. It's always gratifying earning and bringing home the bacon, yeah? At least you know you've earned your dues!

Disorientation

We all have experienced being trapped in troubling thoughts we can't pinpoint right off the bat. We retreat to see what the beast is about.

Subsequently, we identify the issue like the deadly coronavirus. Unfortunately, it coincides with the flu season while the virus mutates into more powerful strain, per a medical report. Together, we can endure this too!

Troubling in the sense that even the medical community isn't sure what the viral infection is about. It's a new strain to which studies have just begun.

Moreover, medical stories have it that a vaccine won't be available until about two years from now. As it is the best answer to mitigate the virus is to "stay home." Yep! A good opportunity to revive doing things together as a family while avoiding fatal infection.

Across the country, hospitals have been swarmed with sick folks needing medical attention. The most affected are the elderly whose immunity system has decreased because of age. It obligates us to take care of grandma and grandpa so they are clear of the deadly virus.

Ha`ilas

Mangaige hit gi tiempun ha`ilas ni umafagcha` yan finattun un` pipinu` na sagu (coronavirus). Mientras tantu, puede ti hana` fan tailaye hit este na pesti. Mas ke 100-mit na tautau esta man-dimalas giya America ginen este na sagu.

I chenut entre lo`lu`, masisisineg, mumuta` yan mañum dispues dimalas i malañgu piot ya amku`. I sagu ha dopblague` gi kuattru eskalera. Gigon mattu gi uttimu kanaha` seguru na makat para haye tinatme. I mikus ha tampe ayu na patte gi gofes `nai malolofan i mañglu`.

Cho`chu`

Na chatsaga i guaha 30-40 mit na tautau para u fan tai che`chu` giya Guam. I umaminasa kinalamten todu atmos lugat i maribahan ekonomia. Kumeke ilegña menus salape` yan cho`chu` gi komunida gi todu i dos lugat. Makat pinadesen maribahan ekonomia `nai menus offisiu para mantension familia.

Chenut

Umasoda` dos pitbetsu gi hospitat pot achanina`ye masisineg. Ni unu sumañgan haf` pinadesisiña pot minamahlau. Dispues, sige umatahgue gi kemun hospitat. Uttimoña achamaliñgu sin adios! Kase pot para umagacha` i kemun i gima`. Speeding miles!

Dilubiu

Tinampe estadun iya Michigan pagyun uchan. Dilubiu lamayot patte `nai guma tautau yan fasilidat publiku man-dinestrosia. Megai na familia manmapega gi safu na lugat pot piligru i manadan hanum ni lumumus kontodu guma` familia siha. Siña tapo`lu kumu iran dilubiu kontodu estadu siha gi orya.

SPEED

From Page 12

cross-section of people and that it offers protection from the virus.

Even if the sped-up process produces a perfectly effective COVID-19 vaccine, it is going to require an extensive and aggressive public education campaign to counter the growing distrust of vaccinations in general. The skepticism has been whipped up by a few determined purveyors of disinformation, who overstate the incidence of vaccination injuries (which are real but rare) and hint that the "medical industrial complex" covers up adverse reactions so they can continue to profit from the drugs. As a result, vaccination rates have dropped in recent years, leading to the resurgence of fully preventable diseases such as measles.

Resistance to the COVID-19 vaccine has already been brewing on social media and in "documentaries" such as "Plandemic" that repeat conspiracy theories about coronavirus being made in laboratories and hint that the number of COVID-19 cases has been inflated by a corrupt government.

The fact that Operation Warp Speed is headed up by Moncef Slaoui—a former executive with pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline and a former board member of Moderna, a drugmaker now testing a COVID-19 vaccine—will be used to hint at nefarious motivations. Any further stumbles in the vaccine development process, or suggestions that safety processes were truncated, will no doubt be exploited by anti-vaccination foes and will make it harder for us to beat the disease into submission.

It's not bad idea to marshal the full force of government and military to fast-track development of a vaccine and give it regulatory priority. But though this is a race of sorts, it's not one that will be won with speed alone.

(c)2020 *Los Angeles Times*

Pandemic is a blown opportunity for conservative nationalists

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.

Future historians of the American right are going to have a devil of a time figuring out what the hell happened as the second decade of the 21st century came to a close. But every day I become more convinced about at least one of their conclusions: The nationalists blew it.

Now, for those who don't enjoy the nuances of conservative taxonomy, I should explain that I am using "nationalist" broadly, to include various camps on the right that think the U.S. has been too globalist and too reverential of the free market at the expense of social cohesion and a patriotic sense of national unity.

Nationalists are a diverse group, containing serious scholars like Notre Dame's Patrick Deneen and Harvard Law School's Adrian Vermeule. This group also includes sharp, ambitious politicians like Sens. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), insightful writers like New York Post op-ed editor Sohrab Ahmari, and the familiar retinue of MAGAnauts, America Firsters, rabble-rousers, Trump boosters and populist opportunists.

They don't all agree with each other, and they don't all go by the "nationalist" moniker. But as a general proposition, I think most start from faulty premises about the nature of nationalism or the benefits of President Donald Trump's embrace of it. I am proudly a pre-Trump conservative who thinks both Trump and the nationalist cause are not what conservatism needed.

Regardless, what unites them all is the notion that the Trump presidency and its emphasis on "America First" brought a long overdue correction to our politics. Nationalism, they argue, is an essential part of a healthy society, because it offers a unifying ethos—a sense of collective identity and social solidarity.

They often go in different directions from that starting point. Some favor building walls, both literal and figurative, around America so we can keep away both foreign wares and foreign workers. Others are eager to find a rationale for a hawkish anti-China agenda. Some simply spout a lot of slogans to provide a semblance of an ideologically coherent argument behind Trump's erratic and glandular governing style.

The coronavirus was a gift delivered to all of them, but they refused to sign for it. And while the China hawks have certainly (and to some extent, rightly) benefited, the larger movement missed its shot.

World War II—a touchstone for all notions of American greatness—was the last time the whole country mobilized for a common cause. Since then, wars have been fought, and felt, by an ever-shrinking fraction of the country. All the other unifying moments—the Cuban missile crisis, the moon landing, etc.—have been experienced by most Americans at a distance, usually on a TV screen.

Whether or not it would have been the right policy, the pandemic could have been the perfect crisis mechanism for implementing a WWII-style, top-down nationalist agenda for the common good. But Trump, who claims "total authority" to do whatever he thinks is necessary to fight the pandemic, opted to embrace federalism and the free market rather than asking us to pull together as a country united in a cause.

A virus that threatens every American, but the old and vulnerable especially, should have been a boon to pro-life Catholic nationalists who champion the seamless garment of life, extol the virtues of respecting our elders and yearn for a right-wing New Deal. Mobilizing to their defense, even at a deep cost to the free market they deride, should have been an easy call. Instead, they've opted to take their lead from Trump and turn face masks into a culture war symbol, denouncing mask-wearing as "cowardly" obeisance to tyranny.

During both world wars, every American institution and citizen was politically and, to a great extent, legally dragooned into the war effort. These "we're all in it together" mobilizations permanently expanded the federal government and the nationalization of our politics. Since then, nationalist appeals to the whole country have been subordinated to partisan politics and the culture war. Calls for national unity from one party are seen as an attempted power grab by the other, and often for good reason.

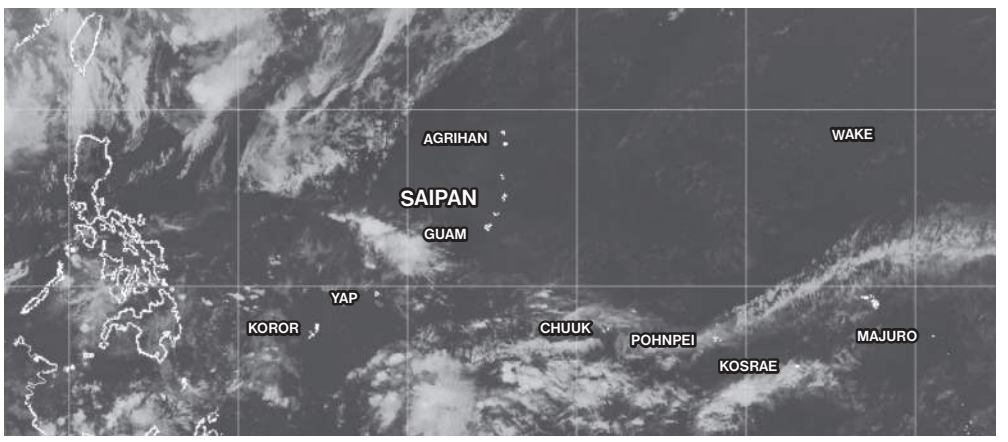
But pandemics, like wars, offer an opportunity for such calls to work, precisely because they are perceived as necessary. If Trump were the nationalist many of his supporters think he is—or, frankly, the dictator his foes take him for—this would have been the nationalists' moment. Trump refused to seize it because he needs domestic enemies to galvanize his base and rationalize his re-election. And for many of the nationalists, it seems his needs are more important than the country's.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 79°	89° 79°	89° 79°	89° 79°	89° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:32 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry trade-wind pattern is established across the Marianas, with moderate east winds, combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, and nothing on IR satellite imagery but dry stratocumulus.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	66° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 59°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	66° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 46°
Miami	Sunny	84° / 76°
New York	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Osaka	Rain	75° / 63°
Paris	Cloudy	68° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Rome	Rain	66° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	95° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Seoul	Sunny	77° / 54°
Tokyo	Cloudy	82° / 66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83° / 69°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:17 AM	6:16 PM	-
Saturday	5:59 AM	7:08 PM	-
Sunday	6:45 AM	8:02 PM	-
Monday	7:35 AM	8:57 PM	-
Tuesday	8:28 AM	9:52 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:22 AM	LOW TIDE	1.13
6:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93
1:47 PM	LOW TIDE	0.09
8:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91

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Business

Beachside Property Management LLC swears by quality of work

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Beachside Property Management LCC located in Koblerville has been building quality residential homes since 2016. Part of their mission is to provide the highest level of quality in construction services at a fair market and competitive price.

According to active senior member Timothy Baker, experience in construction is one of the good qualities when looking for a construction firm on island and he has been in the construction business for over 40 years now. "I started my own company in New York in 1972. Over the years, my company has approximately built 2,500 residential houses and commercial buildings. On Saipan, we build in accordance to U.S. standards and cater to the needs and wishes of our clients," he said.

CONTIRBUTED PHOTOS
One of Beachside Property Management LCC's projects in Koblerville.

CONTIRBUTED PHOTOS
Beachside Property Management LCC acquired right and durable materials for their client's dream house.

"Our target market is the middle class that want a basic house that is durable, perfect for their family size, and can withstand super typhoons… One of our projects in Koblerville was the only house with the roof still intact after Super Typhoon Yutu," he added.

Part of Baker's success in the construction business is that they work closely with clients about the house plan. "It is always an honor to be trusted by our clients. In return, we sit down and talk over plans for their dream house. We are also particular about choosing the right materials… never below par," he said.

"Aside from specializing in building residential homes, we also do plumbing, electrical, landscaping, tuck pointing, house clean outs, flooring, and so on. We do free estimates for prospective clients," he added.

Beachside Property Management LLC is open from Monday to Saturday from 7:30am to 6pm. For more information, call (670) 789-6911 or go to their Facebook page: Beachside Property Management LLC.

United Airlines launches United CleanPlus

CHICAGO—United Airlines is introducing United CleanPlus: the company's commitment to putting health and safety at the forefront of the entire customer experience, with the goal of delivering an industry-leading standard of cleanliness. United CleanPlus brings together a most trusted brand in surface disinfection—Clorox—and the country's top medical experts - Cleveland Clinic - to inform and guide United's new cleaning, safety and social distancing protocols that includes touchless kiosks in select locations for baggage check-in, sneeze guards, mandatory face coverings for crew and customers, and giving customers options when flights are more full. Specifically, Clorox products will be used at United's hub airports and medical experts from the Cleveland Clinic will advise on new technologies, training development and quality assurance programming.

By establishing collaborations with world-renowned leaders in surface disinfection and health like Clorox and Cleveland Clinic, United customers can travel with more confidence knowing that the airline's protocols have been informed by trusted experts.

"Safety has always been our top priority, and right now in the midst of an unprecedented crisis, it's our singular customer focus," said United CEO, Scott Kirby, in a video message to customers today. "We recognize that COVID-19 has brought cleanliness and hygiene standards to the front of customers' minds when making travel decisions, and we're not leaving a single stone unturned in our pursuit to better protect our customers and employees."

Clorox is working closely with United to enhance the airline's cleaning program, redefine disinfection procedures and equip customers with amenities at select locations that help support a healthier and safer environment throughout their travel journey. Clorox products will first roll out at United's hub airports in Chicago and Denver and will be used in the gate and terminal areas, with additional locations to follow.

"We're proud Clorox will play a role in United CleanPlus to enhance people's safety when they travel," said Benno Dorer, chair and CEO, The Clorox Company. "Connecting the world more safely, when possible, is an important part of our recovery as a society. Together we are helping people when they travel for work or pleasure. We look forward to working with United to explore more ways to help keep their customers healthy during their travel experience."

The United CleanPlus commitment goes far beyond disinfection. United consulted with experts at Cleveland Clinic to provide guidance on the airline's policies and procedures – from mandatory face coverings, to touchless kiosks in select locations for baggage check-in, to social distancing – and ensure they meet or exceed industry standards. Medical experts from the Cleveland Clinic will also advise on new technologies, training development and quality assurance programming. And, as scientists learn more about how to fight COVID-19, Cleveland Clinic experts will help United use those discoveries to quickly implement new ways to keep customers safe.

"As the public begins to adjust to a world that's been altered by the COVID-19 pandemic, health and safety is of the utmost importance," said Tomislav Mihaljevic, M.D., Cleveland Clinic CEO and President. "We are proud to be part of this program and to share the knowledge we've gained as we've worked to contain and understand COVID-19 over the past several months. It's important for everyone to take precautions as we enter this new phase of COVID-19 response, and Cleveland Clinic is pleased to play a role in helping people travel safely."

The United CleanPlus commitment to customers is already happening throughout the travel journey across the United network in a number of ways. To date, United has implemented more than a dozen new policies and procedures aligned with United CleanPlus that are designed with health and safety in mind, including:

In airport lobbies:

■ Reducing touchpoints by temporarily shutting down self-service kiosks and beginning to roll out, in select locations, touchless kiosks that allow customers to print bag tags using their own device to scan a QR code.

■ Actively promoting social distancing with enhanced signage, including a 6 ft. rule at the ticket counters which allows for minimal contact between agents and customers.

■ Deploying sneeze guards at key interaction points, including at our check-in counters.

At the gate:

■ Boarding fewer customers at a time to allow for more distance during the boarding process, minimizing crowding at the gate and jet bridge.

■ Asking our customers to self-scan their boarding passes at our gate readers.

■ Equipping our employees with disinfecting products available so they can disinfect high-touch areas including armrests and handrails.

United Airlines Takes Cleanliness to a New Level with CleanPlus – Including New Partnership with

Clorox / Page 3

In the United Clubs:

■ Protective sneeze guards installed at credentialing desks and customer service positions to minimize contact between guests and team members

■ Enhanced safety and well-being of team members by requiring the use of personal protective equipment

■ Increased the frequency of cleaning of high-touch surfaces and equipping team members with disinfectant cleaning products

■ Removed seating at the bar area to actively promote physical distancing

■ Pre-packaged food and beverages available only at the bar area to reduce customer touch points

Onboard aircraft:

■ Beginning May 22, United will introduce an "all in one" economy snack bag that replaces the economy beverage and complimentary snack choice service on domestic flights scheduled 2 hours and 20 minutes or more. This bag will include a wrapped sanitizer wipe, an 8.5 oz. bottled water, a Stroopwafel and a package of pretzels

■ Enhancing cabin sanitization including electrostatic spraying, which will happen before every flight starting this June.

■ Requiring all employees and customers on board to wear a mask or face covering, helping protect each other.

■ Supplying individually wrapped hand sanitizer wipes to customers as they board.

■ Limiting advance seat selections where possible and allowing customers to take alternative flights when we expect a flight to operate over 70% capacity.

Behind the scenes:

■ Implementing employee temperature checks before the start of their workday, better safeguarding their health as well as their teammates' and customers'.

■ Employees are producing hand sanitizer that is being used throughout the airline.

For more information on United CleanPlus visit United.com/CleanPlus. ***(PR)***

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LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
24,575.90	2,971.61	9,375.78
+369.04	+48.67	+190.67
1.52%	1.67%	2.08%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.5233	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7504	Russian Ruble	70.1355
British Pound	0.8193	Indian Rupee	75.2191	Singapore Dollar	1.4144
Canadian Dollar	1.3931	Japanese Yen	107.6150	South Korean Won	1205.50
Chinese Yuan	6.9930	Malaysian Ringgit	4.2951	Swiss Franc	0.9660
Euro	0.9122	New Zealand Dollar	1.6332	Taiwan Dollar	29.3977
		Philippine Peso	49.6175	Thailand Baht	31.8240

Nation

Trump tests whether incumbent leader can tap outsider anger

AP
President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, and Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Wednesday, May 20, 2020, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump is running against himself.

With his cries to "Reopen our country!" and his rebukes of the federal bureaucracy and health regulations amid the coronavirus pandemic, Trump has tried to tap into the same populist, anti-Washington anger he rode to victory in 2016. The difference: He is now, by definition, the face of government.

Positioning himself as the outsider despite being the incumbent, Trump has feuded with governors, pushed back against government restrictions and, this week, said he was taking an unproven anti-malarial drug against the coronavirus despite warnings from his own health experts.

Aiming to energize his base less than six months before he stands for reelection, the president has drawn a cultural link between the disaffected who voted for him four years ago and those who want to quickly restart the nation's economy. Amplified by conservative media commentators, Trump has leaned into the pandemic's partisan divide and urged states to reopen regardless of whether they meet the benchmarks set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"They want to get out there, and they want to get back," Trump said recently of those agitating to restart the nation's economy. "That's what they want. They want their country back, and they're getting it back."

On Monday, he was even more direct, tweeting in capital letters: "REOPEN OUR COUNTRY!"

The president's political advisers contend that, even after four years in the White House, Trump will always be an outsider compared to his likely general election opponent, Democrat Joe Biden, who spent more than four decades in Washington.

Trump has also worked to cultivate that image throughout the coronavirus crisis.

He has encouraged right-wing protests against states' stringent social distancing orders, unleashing a series of tweets calling to "Liberate!" Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia. Many who attended the rallies sported Trump campaign apparel and "Make America Great Again" hats and signs, drawing the president's support, though the protests were small and received widespread condemnation for potentially spreading the virus.

But the president's praise echoed across the internet and on cable television by conservative pundits and conspiracy theorists, stoking a fury that in its anti-government rhetoric echoed the birth of the tea party movement a decade ago.

Especially after the virus reached the United States, grabbing the mantle of the outsider was a natural play for Trump. Over the last century, history has favored incumbents seeking reelection — except for those in times of fundamental anxiety.

"If Trump runs as an outsider, he will, as ever, be playing for base turnout rather than seeking votes in the tiny but still real middle," said presidential historian Jon Meacham. "Can he convincingly run as an insurgent against his own government? I fear the answer is yes, and his people will thrill to it. The question will come down to whether voters choose the evidence of the last four years or Trump's addled version of those four years."

Trump has turned his wrath against a number of Democratic governors, including those who lead battleground states like Pennsylvania and Michigan, declaring they were ungrateful for the federal government's assistance and insinuating they were moving slowly to reopen in order to perpetuate a damaged economy that would wound Trump's electoral chances.

Biden has pushed back, putting the failures of the nation's pandemic response squarely on Trump, whom he blames for missing early warning signs and being slow to ramp up national programs for testing and treatment. Democrats believe that Trump's strategy will have limited appeal.

Biden warns of 'abuse of power' in measured Trump critique

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden warned Wednesday that those "tasked with enforcing the law are abusing their powers," offering a measured critique of the Trump administration a day after he declined to respond to President Donald Trump's attacks directly.

Speaking to Columbia University Law School graduates via video, Biden urged them to "protect the very foundations of democracy."

"Trust in self-governance. Because right now, it's under attack," the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said. "The very people tasked with enforcing the rule of law are abusing their powers, protecting their friends, weakening the very principles that make our country work."

His comments come amid escalating rhetoric from Trump and his allies pushing conspiracy theories and alleging improper behavior during the Obama administration.

Asked on Tuesday night how he'd respond to the allegations, Biden said, "I don't want to get down in the mud with these guys."

Speaking at a Yahoo News virtual town hall on Tuesday, Biden said Trump was trying to distract voters from his inadequate response to the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 90,000 Americans. Trump has said the virus will disappear "like a miracle."

Broadly dubbing his allegations "Obamagate," Trump has pointed to the legal case of his former national security adviser Michael Flynn, suggesting that the "unmasking" of Flynn's name as part of legal U.S. surveillance of foreign targets was criminal and motivated by partisan politics.

There is no evidence of that, and Trump's accusations misrepresent the facts of the case. The "unmasking" of people in surveillance reports is a routine, legal activity in government — the Trump administration made 10,012 such requests in 2019.

But they don't often become public, and in the Flynn case, Trump supporters point to it as evidence that Obama loyalists were out to undermine Trump from the start. The president himself has called it the "biggest political crime and scandal in the history of the USA."

"This is his pattern. Diversion, diversion, diversion, diversion," Biden said Tuesday. "The greatest crime? I mean, my Lord."

Trump's cries of scandal come as the president and many top Republicans have used increasingly harsh rhetoric against Biden — hoping to foment doubt in voters' minds as election season beings to heat up.

On Wednesday, a Senate committee led by Wisconsin Republican Ron Johnson will vote on whether to issue a subpoena as part of an investigation into Biden's son Hunter and his work for a Ukrainian natural gas company that grew out of Trump's impeachment earlier this year.

US health officials quietly release more reopening guidance

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. health officials have quietly released more reopening guidance that was created more than a month ago but initially shelved.

As with other recently released guidance, religious organizations were not included. Instead, the document has advice for childcare facilities, schools, day camps, mass transit systems, restaurants, bars and other businesses and organizations that have workers at high risk of becoming sick from the coronavirus.

The guidance discusses different steps organizations can take as they reopen from closures aimed at stopping the virus's spread. On Sunday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention placed the information in a 20-page appendix to a document previously posted on its website.

For example, the CDC suggests restaurants might transition from take-out only to reopening dining rooms with customers spaced six feet apart.

Mass transit systems might shift from serving only essential workers to opening up to the general public with restrictions, such as closing every other row of seats and limits on how many riders can be on a bus or train. In a third step, the system might loosen some of those limitations, but keep tape markers on the ground or take other steps to help passengers stay 6 feet apart.

The pages flesh out six one-page "decision tool" documents—posted by CDC last week—that use traffic signs and other graphics to tell organizations what they should consider before reopening. But it's not a mandate and leaves lots of wiggle room. The phrases "as feasible," "if feasible," and "where feasible" repeat over and over again.

More than a month ago, CDC gave White House officials a more detailed version of decision tools and additional pages of guidance.

Those early versions of the documents included detailed information for churches wanting to restart in-person services, with suggestions including maintaining distance between parishioners and limiting the size of gatherings.

The White House initially shelved all the guidance, though news organizations including The Associated Press obtained copies. Since then, the White House authorized release of some of the information. But the faith-related guidance was taken out after the White House raised concerns about the recommended restrictions.

On Wednesday, White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany said there was no need for a splashy announcement about the guidance being posted because much of the information "was already out there." She said initial draft guidance received "constructive criticism" and refinement during an internal government review before it was released.

Asia

Cyclone batters India and Bangladesh coasts, millions flee

NEW DELHI (AP)—A powerful cyclone plowed inland on Wednesday after crashing into the coasts of India and Bangladesh, where more than 2.6 million people fled to shelters in a frantic evacuation made more challenging by the coronavirus pandemic.

Cyclone Amphan, the equivalent of a category 3 hurricane, was packing sustained winds of up to 170 kilometers (105 miles) per hour with maximum gusts of 190 kph (118 mph).

Although the cyclone was expected to weaken as it moved towards Bangladesh, authorities warned of extensive damage to flimsy houses and storm surges pushing seawater 25 kilometers (15 miles) inland, flooding cities including Kolkata.

The cyclone washed away bridges connecting Indian islands to the mainland and left many areas without electricity or phone service, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters Wednesday evening. She said that while a clearer picture of the devastation would emerge by Thursday, there had been at least 7 deaths.

"We are facing three crises: the coronavirus, the thousands of migrants who are returning home and now the cyclone," said Banerjee, who is an opposition leader and one of the fiercest critics of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A man covers himself with a plastic sheet and walks in the rain ahead of Cyclone Amphan landfall, at Bhadrak district, in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, Wednesday, May 20, 2020. AP

The southern districts of the state were worst affected, officials said, adding the crisis was far from over, with strong winds likely to continue until early Thursday morning. Heavy rainfall was forecast for many parts of the state in the coming week.

As the cyclone hit the coast, coconut trees swayed wildly, electric poles lay scattered on the roads of Kolkata, rain pounded fishing villages and rivers surged. Thousands of homes were damaged and river embankments were washed away.

"The next 24 hours are very crucial. This is a long haul," said M. Mohapatra, India's meteorological chief.

The region, with 58 million people in the two bordering countries, has some of the most vulnerable communities in South Asia. They include poor fishing communities in the Sunderbans and more than 1 million Rohingya refugees living in crowded camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

A woman crushed by a tree and a 13-year-old girl killed near Kolkata were among the first deaths reported in India. In southern Bangladesh, a volunteer in a cyclone preparedness team drowned when a boat capsized in a canal.

The cyclone could endanger India's fight against the coronavirus, with supply lines cut, roads destroyed and lockdown measures slowing relief work, said T. Sundaramanan, a health systems consultant in Pondicherry in southeast India.

Tuhin Ghosh, director of the School of Oceanographic Studies at Jadavpur University, said the pandemic's lockdown has already sapped people's resilience.

"Because they are economically down, they are not getting enough food. ... When another disaster comes, then it's a double impact," he said.

The cyclone made landfall between the seaside resort of Digha in West Bengal and Bangladesh's Hatiya Island. The eye of the storm was likely to pass through the Sunderbans, one of the largest mangrove forests in the world, India's meteorological department said.

The forests could act as a vital line of defense by dissipating some energy from waves that would otherwise slam the coastline, said K.J. Ramesh, the department's former chief.

People living in isolated mangrove forest communities were vulnerable. Ghosh said their houses could be inundated and that mud homes had already washed away.

Bangladesh has evacuated around 2.4 million people to safety. India's West Bengal state moved nearly 300,000 and Odisha state another 148,486, officials said.

Philippine police raid illegal hospital for virus patients

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police raided a clandestine hospital and drugstore that were secretly treating Chinese citizens suspected of being infected with the coronavirus, police officials said Wednesday.

Two people were arrested and one patient was found during Tuesday's raid at the residential villa that had been illegally turned into a seven-bed hospital and drugstore, police Brig. Gen. Rhoderick Armamento said.

More than 200 suspected coronavirus rapid test kits and syringes were recovered from trash cans at the villa. The hospital and drugstore are in a large room by a swimming pool at the back of the compound, according to Armamento and a police video.

The male Chinese patient was moved to a Philippine hospital. Those arrested were the Chinese administrator of the hospital, which may have been operating secretly for about three months, and a compatriot who manned the drugstore, he said.

"They have practiced medicine and prescribed drugs without a license," Armamento said by telephone. "The Chinese patients who were brought there may still be walking around in public and can infect other people."

The villa is in the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone, a former U.S. Air Force base turned into a commercial and leisure center with upscale residential enclaves northwest of Manila. Most of the medical facility's clients may have come from the large number of Chinese citizens working in online gambling outfits in Clark, Armamento said.

The Philippines, backed by the Chinese government, has launched a crackdown on Chinese who mostly entered the country as tourists and then worked for the online gambling operations, which are illegal in China. The outfits cater mostly to Chinese clients in mainland China.

Coronavirus looms over China's national legislative session

BEIJING (AP)—When China convenes its National People's Congress on Friday, will the 3,000 delegates stand shoulder to shoulder as they have in years past? Will they wear masks?

This year's version of China's biggest annual political meeting will be unlike any other. Delayed from March because of the then-spiraling coronavirus outbreak, the decision to go ahead now signals a partial return to normalcy in the country where the pandemic first broke out. "Partial" being the operative word: The congress will be far from normal.

For the ruling Communist Party and leader Xi Jinping, the holding of the congress, even in curtailed form, offers an opportunity to showcase China's success in curbing the spread of the virus while many other nations still wrestle with it. But the government is taking extensive precautions to prevent any infections at the congress, a potential public relations nightmare.

Shi Shusi, a Beijing-based social commentator, said the "two sessions"—the congress and a concurrent advisory body meeting that starts Thursday—along with the reopening of schools are seen as indicators of whether the epidemic has ended.

"It concerns the safety of children and government officials, which is very important in China," Shi said. "The opening of the two sessions is to tell the world that the epidemic situation is under control."

Classes resumed in Beijing for some grades this month, including high school seniors who must prepare for college entrance exams, and others will follow in June. Universities remain closed until at least September.

Traffic congestion has returned, another sign that life is edging toward normal in the capital. Office workers crowd food courts at lunchtime, lining up for Chinese noodles or Korean rice bowl meals, though signs urge diners not to linger and socialize.

Zhou Yu, a Beijing bank employee, said he feels assured because the opening of the two sessions means the epidemic is under control. He and clients wear masks when they meet.

"We resumed work in March, and almost all of us are back to work now," he said. "Because we all pay attention to the precautions and disinfect working areas every day, there's nothing to worry about."

As night falls, dance groups have resumed their get-togethers in public spaces, many following new official guidance that masks are no longer needed outdoors. Most onlookers, though, still wear them. Movie theaters remain closed, and major tourist sites require advance registration to limit the number of daily visitors.

The congress, normally a grand affair with plenty of ceremony, will be shorter than usual, perhaps one week instead of the usual two. Some officials will speak remotely by video to breakout sessions of delegates. Participants are being tested and isolated ahead of the meetings, and news conferences will be held by video.

Earlier speculation that some of the 3,000 delegates might attend by video link has faded, with Chinese media reports now focused on them getting coronavirus tests before departing for Beijing.

The fallout from the virus outbreak, economic and otherwise, is likely to dominate the agenda. The sharp deterioration of U.S.-China relations, fueled by a blame game over a pandemic that has killed more than 323,000 people globally, will also hang over the meeting.

Xi's public standing has risen at home for both his handling of the outbreak and his standing up to foreign accusations that his government reacted too slowly and covered up the seriousness of the outbreak initially, said Cheng Li, a China politics expert at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C.

Overseas, opinions of Xi are less rosy, at least in some quarters. While some countries have embraced deliveries of virus-related equipment from China, the U.S., Australia and some in Europe have questioned the government's openness and bristled at combative retorts by some of its diplomats.

World

As virus swamps Peru, Venezuelan migrants collect the dead

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Faustino López was terrified after his wife, Angélica, was hospitalized with the coronavirus last month.

Deeply shaken by seeing her so seriously ill after 45 years of marriage, and worried about falling sick himself, López moved from their bed to the living room couch, and wept as he watched news of the pandemic spreading through Peru. Then he lost his sense of taste and began to shiver with fever. A test came back positive for the virus.

Depressed and fearful, López tried to check himself into a government center for coronavirus patients, according to his two children. A guard turned him away because he hadn't been correctly referred.

The 68-year-old gardener went home, drank muriatic acid and hanged himself in his living room with a yellow extension cord.

López's body remained there, the police afraid to touch it, until a gray Hyundai hearse pulled up. Jhoan Faneite and his stepson, Luis Zerpa, stepped out, wrapped in protective gear and toting a body bag and disinfectant.

Despite strict measures to control the coronavirus, this South American nation of 32 million people has become one of the countries worst hit by the COVID-19 disease. With more than 104,000 cases and 3,000 deaths, Peru was 12th in the world in numbers of confirmed diagnoses Wednesday, more than reported by China and just behind India.

The true scope of the disaster is even worse. With more than half of cases going uncounted, according to some doctors' estimates, Peruvian officials call the coronavirus pandemic the most devastating to hit the country since 1492, when Europeans began bringing diseases like smallpox and measles to the Americas.

Piedrangel funeral home worker Luis Zerpa, of Venezuela, arrives to remove the body of 68-year-old Faustino Lopez who is believed to have committed suicide after learning that he tested positive for the new coronavirus, in Lima, Peru, Tuesday, May 5, 2020. AP

Peruvians are dying at home by the hundreds. In the capital, Lima, the grueling, dangerous work of recovering bodies from homes falls to Faneite, Zerpa and fellow workers from the Piedrangel funeral home, who, clad in full-body orange suits, face masks and goggles to protect themselves, collect as many as 10 bodies a day.

On this afternoon earlier this month, Zerpa began by stripping López and washing down his body with disinfectant as Faneite looked over the 68-year-old's identity card and other official documents.

A week later, López's wife, Angélica, died of coronavirus in a hospital.

"Every day I entrust myself to God so that I don't catch the disease," said Faneite, who worked as an electrician in his native Venezuela before migrating to Peru in 2018 with his wife and stepson amid his home country's years-long economic crisis.

Peru was home to some 865.000 Venezuelan migrants last month, although a significant number have begun returning home due to lack of work during Peru's pandemic shutdown, which led to a 16.25% drop in GDP in March, the month it began.

Six days a week, Faneite, Zerpa and some of the roughly 20 other Venezuelan funeral workers drive hearses through wealthy neighborhoods overlooking the Pacific Ocean as well as through poor areas on hillsides that don't have running water.

Marcos Epinoza, a 51-year-old electrician, lived in a working-class neighborhood near Pachacámac, the site of an Inca temple. Suffering from diabetes, he began drinking an infusion of eucalyptus, ginger and lemon when he felt pain in his eyes earlier this month.

He died in his sleep a week later, just before 3 a.m. on May 8.

Eight hours later, Faneite, Zerpa and another Venezuelan crew member, Luis Brito, walked uphill to his house, only their eyes visible through their protective gear. They hauled him in a body bag by hand, pausing to rest the corpse in the dirt on the steep descent back to the hearse.

The Piedrangel funeral home says it collected the first person confirmed to have died of COVID-19 in Peru, a psychologist who died alone in March in his apartment overlooking the ocean.

When other funeral homes refused to pick up the body, Edgard Gonzales, who owns the funeral home with his three brothers, saw opportunity.

"A door could open here," he remembers telling them. Piedrangel cremates all COVID-19 victims.

Ricardo Noriega, a 77-year-old clothing salesman, felt ill in late April and couldn't find a taxi or a relative to take him to a hospital. He died in an armchair in his living room about a week later, facing a wall hung with family photos.

Zerpa and two other colleagues wrapped Noriega in a body bag and carried him out to the hearse.

Peru's government barred all nonessential movement and shuttered business on March 15, a lockdown currently scheduled to last until Sunday.

UN urges Venezuela's rival political leaders to resume talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations called on Venezuela's feuding political leaders Wednesday to urgently resume serious negotiations, while Russia and its Caracas government ally traded barbs with the United States and Colombia over a failed armed raid on the Venezuelan coast.

U.N. political chief Rosemary DiCarlo told the U.N. Security Council that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has repeatedly called for a negotiated solution and "we remain convinced that a real negotiation among Venezuela's main political actors is the only way forward."

"In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, an agreement that strengthens democratic governance, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law is more urgent than ever," DiCarlo said. "We therefore call on all main political actors to resume serious negotiations."

Her comments came during a council meeting called by Russia to support Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's view that the May 3 incursion threatened peace in his country and regional security.

The raid at the coastal town of Macuto quickly became a publicity coup for Maduro, whose security forces intercepted most of the attackers, including two Americans, who had aimed to capture the president. Officials reported the arrests of over 40 people.

The incursion was launched from Colombia, but the U.S. and Colombian governments have rejected Maduro's allegations that they were behind the operation. Opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who is recognized by the U.S., Colombia and about five dozen other nations as Venezuela's legitimate leader, also has denied any involvement.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, questioned how the U.S. government could say it had nothing to do with the incursion when the raiders were planning to take Maduro to the United States.

"For what purpose, may I ask?" he said. "And how does it correlate with constant `all options are on the table' type messages by the U.S. government to Caracas, including the recent announcement of a $15 million bounty for President Maduro? Who else can be behind this mercenary adventure?"

U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft dismissed "the illegitimate" Maduro regime's "fantastical accusations and demonstrable falsehoods," saying that "the United States has not entered Venezuela and categorically rejects any claims to the contrary."

"We encourage the (Security) Council to look closely into the role of the Maduro regime in creating this supposed crisis, and especially into interference by the vast Cuban intelligence apparatus in Venezuela," she said.

Craft accused the Maduro regime of overseeing 7,000 extrajudicial killings, using food as a political weapon and engaging in torture and human trafficking.

Polyansky presented the council with a proposed press statement on the meeting. It required approval from all 15 members to be issued, which it did not get.

Abbas says PA to no longer abide by accords with Israel, US

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas says the Palestinian Authority will no longer be committed to any signed agreements with Israel or the United States, following Israel's pledge to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank.

It was not immediately clear how the announcement, which was made at a Palestinian leadership meeting late Tuesday, would be implemented. The Oslo accords and other agreements in the 1990s created the Palestinian Authority and govern its political, economic and security relations with Israel.

"The Palestine Liberation Organization and the State of Palestine are no longer committed to all signed agreements and understandings with the Israeli government and the American government, including the security commitments," Abbas said.

He said Israel would now have to "uphold responsibilities before the international community as the occupying power."

He also announced that the Palestinians would step up their campaign to join international organizations as a member state, in defiance of the U.S.

Israel's Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's office declined to comment.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped security arrangements would remain in place. "I'm not exactly sure what to make of his statement, but I regret that he has decided to abrogate these agreements," Pompeo told reporters in Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to annex the Jordan Valley and Jewish settlements in the West Bank in line with President Donald Trump's Middle East plan, which overwhelmingly favors Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians.

Netanyahu formed a new Israeli government earlier this month with his chief rival, Benny Gantz, following three elections and more than a year of gridlock. The coalition agreement allows Netanyahu to present an annexation proposal to the government as soon as July 1.

Off the Wall

Virginia family out for ride finds nearly $1 million in road

A Virginia family out for a ride to get a change of scenery after being holed up due to the coronavirus found nearly $1 million in two bags lying in the road.

David and Emily Schantz left their Caroline County home with their children last Saturday and drove their pickup truck over what they thought was a bag of trash, then stopped and picked it up as well as another bag nearby, news sources reported Tuesday. The Schantzes tossed the bags in the back of their pickup truck and kept riding, according to Emily Schantz.

Only when the Schantzes returned home did they discover the bags contained money, she said.

"Inside of the bag, there were plastic baggies and they were addressed with something that said 'cash vault,'" Schantz told WTVR.

They contacted the Caroline County Sheriff's Office, which sent deputies to the home. The deputies took inventory and determined the money totaled nearly $1 million.

Caroline Sheriff's Maj. Scott Moser said authorities have since determined where the money was headed, but are still trying to figure out how it ended up in the middle of a road in Goochland County. Moser would not say specifically where the money was going. But he said he hopes the recipients offer the Schantzes a nice reward.

"Their actions deserve nothing less," Moser said. "They saved someone a lot of money and set a wonderful example for everyone else." ***(AP)***

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Search for melon-wearing Virginia theft suspects bears fruit

LOUISA, Va. (AP)—A theft investigation has proven fruitful in Virginia, where authorities arrested one of two suspects in a convenience store robbery. Store security video shows the pair stealing items while wearing masks made from hollowed-out watermelons. The Town of Louisa Police Department put out a call for tips in an effort to identify the "MELON-HEADS," and later thanked the public for helping them make an arrest. Investigators said the two arrived at the store in a lifted black truck around 9:30 p.m. on May 6 and "proceeded to commit a larceny" in the melon masks, which featured small holes cut out for their eyes. The police statement didn't say what items were taken, and provided no other details about the suspects.

Moose family reunion: Trooper brings calves, mom together

HEBER CITY, Utah (AP)—A Utah state trooper has helped a pair of newborn moose calves reunite safely with their mother after spotting them on a mountain road. The trooper noticed the hours-old calves without their mother on the road as he drove home from work, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) east of Salt Lake City on Monday, said Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Nick Street. It's not clear how they became separated. Worried they could be hit by a car, trooper Alexander Agin stopped and put up a traffic barrier. Once he was out of his car and walking, the baby moose began to follow him. So Agin decided to guide them away from the traffic danger. Just as he led them off the road, the calves' mother arrived—and began to charge him. "He knew not to be getting between those calves and their mother," Street said. Agin quickly retreated to his patrol car and recorded a quick video of the moose family reuniting and walking into the trees.

Students sue to avoid AP test retakes after glitches

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

High school students who were blocked by technical issues from submitting their completed online Advanced Placement exams sued Wednesday demanding their work be counted. The executive who oversees the program said they likely would have to retake the tests instead.

About 15,550 of the more than 3 million timed tests taken at home during the past two weeks resulted in errors, according to data provided by the College Board.

Students have publicly shared their anger and frustration at watching the clock run out while they frantically tried to submit responses.

Mika Newey got a series of increasingly upsetting texts from her daughter, Claire, as the 17-year-old tried seven or eight times to upload an AP English essay from their Hobbs, New Mexico home last week:

"Mom, I finished the test. I thought I did real good. It won't submit."

"It won't submit. It won't go through."

And finally, "I'm going to have to retake the test."

"I was freaking out. It was very stressful," Claire Newey said by phone, adding she took AP government and calculus exams with no trouble on previous days.

Students who score well enough on the College Board's AP exams have a chance to earn college credit. The three-hour exams are typically taken on paper in school but were quickly redesigned as 45-minute online exams when the coronavirus shut down schools and put a halt to large gatherings.

College Board President David Coleman said he understands the frustration of those who couldn't submit their results but said no student has lost the chance at college credit.

"The worst recourse is that they will have to retest," he said by phone, noting security issues surrounding accepting work saved by students last week.

"We are looking at everything we can do to see if there's any submitted work that we can grade and score," he said.

"The only thing that would stop us is not some bureaucratic inflexibility or a cold heart. .... We just have to work within the limits of our secure procedures," he said.

The technical problems, Coleman said, appeared to arise from students working on older devices with outdated browsers or newer smartphones that made it difficult for them to upload photos of their written responses.

The issues affected half of 1% of tests, the College Board said.

Students testing this week have been given the backup option of submitting answers through email, and customer service and makeup requests have decreased.

Mika Newey said that took the pressure off of her daughter this week but wondered why such a safety net was not available from the start.

Despite the shift to computer testing, a slightly higher percentage of students completed the exams through the first seven days of testing than in a typical year, the College Board said.

A class-action lawsuit demands the College Board accept the time-stamped answers of students who could not submit them last week instead of requiring re-testing in June. The suit also seeks more than $500 million in damages from the not-for-profit College Board and Educational Testing Service, which administers the tests, claiming, among other things, breach of contract, negligence and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Officials: Loon killed bald eagle by stabbing its heart

BRIDGTON, Maine (AP)—A bald eagle died last year in Maine after being stabbed through the heart by a loon, wildlife officials said.

A biologist at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife recently got word about the July 2019 attack, the Bangor Daily News reported Wednesday.

Danielle D'Auria believes it to be one of the strangest cases of eagle death she has ever seen.

The bird had been found with a puncture would in its chest by a loon biologist in New Hampshire. A dead loon chick was also discovered near the eagle.

When D'Auria heard about the case she had the bird radiographed fro a possible bullet wound as it is illegal in the U.S. to kill bald eagles.

The evidence showed no gun residue but indicated that the big bird had been stabbed through the heart by the beak of a loon.

"We know conflicts between bald eagles and loons have soared in recent years as a result of the recovery of our eagle population," D'Auria wrote in a blog entry for the state agency. "We are seeing more and more eagle predation on loon chicks and even adult loons."

The biologist believes the loon's attack was a result of its attempt to protect its chick from the bird.

D'Auria wrote the evidence is important because it shows an attack that appears to be the first recorded wherein a loon has killed an eagle.

She added, "Who would think a loon would stand a chance against such a powerful predator?"

File photo shows Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mississippi gov is pranked in shout-out to high school grads

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—This one slipped through the cracks.

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves asked people to submit names of high school seniors so he could read them aloud on a webcast—a recognition for teenagers who are missing traditional graduation ceremonies because of the coronavirus pandemic.

On a Facebook live session Saturday, Reeves started reading the names of graduates from Florence High School, his alma mater, when he came to one his staff now assumes someone submitted as a prank—"Harry Azcrac." The 45-year-old Republican governor read it, paused briefly and kept going.

A video clip became the butt of jokes on Twitter, and the governor handled it with good humor.

"Harry's submitter has a bright future as a Simpson's writer!" Reeves tweeted, also noting that he would be back online reading more graduates' names: "Maybe even Ben—the pride of the Dover family."

Reeves spokeswoman Renae Eze said Wednesday that the governor's staff spent hours grouping almost 10,000 individually submitted names by school. As for Harry Azcrac, she said: "We can probably say it's not a real person."

Porn actor Ron Jeremy fighting to save childhood tree

NEW YORK (AP)—Porn actor Ron Jeremy is fighting to save a tree his father planted outside their New York home the day he was born.

Jeremy took to Twitter on Saturday, saying that utility Con Edison was going cut down the tree that was planted in Queens in 1953. The tweet includes a 2018 photo of Jeremy hugging the tree.

Jeremy, who has been staying at a Hollywood hotel during the coronavirus pandemic, told the New York Daily News that a neighbor let him know the trunk was wrapped in yellow tape last week.

"I looked after that tree all my life. They tried to chop the tree down years ago but I wouldn't let them," Jeremy said. "I even belted myself to the tree."

The tree is on city property, and the Parks Department can choose to remove it, according to Con Edison. It is up to the city to decide whether to remove the tree to avoid any potential damage it may cause to surrounding power lines.

Jeremy said he had considered traveling to New York to protest the tree's removal but didn't feel comfortable flying.

"Let my little tree live," Jeremy said. "He ain't ready to go yet."

Science & Technology

Apple, Google release technology for pandemic apps

By MATT O'BRIEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple and Google on Wednesday released long-awaited smartphone technology to automatically notify people if they might have been exposed to the coronavirus.

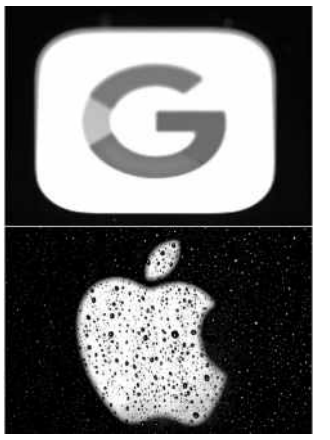
The companies said 22 countries and several U.S. states are already planning to build voluntary phone apps using their software. It relies on Bluetooth wireless technology to detect when someone who downloaded the app has spent time near another app user who later tests positive for the virus.

Many governments have already tried, mostly unsuccessfully, to roll out their own phone apps to fight the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those apps have encountered technical problems on Apple and Android phones and haven't been widely adopted. They often use GPS to track people's location, which Apple and Google are banning from their new tool because of privacy and accuracy concerns.

Public health agencies from Germany to the states of Alabama and South Carolina have been waiting to use the Apple-Google model, while other governments have said the tech giants' privacy restrictions will be a hindrance because public health workers will have no access to the data.

The companies said they're not trying to replace contact tracing, a pillar of infection control that involves trained public health workers reaching out to people who may have been exposed to an infected person. But they said their automatic "exposure notification" system can augment that process and slow the spread of COVID-19 by virus carriers who are interacting with strangers and aren't yet showing symptoms.

The identity of app users will be protected by encryption and anonymous identifier beacons that change frequently.



This combo of photos shows the logo for Google, top and Apple, bottom. AP

"User adoption is key to success and we believe that these strong privacy protections are also the best way to encourage use of these apps," the companies said in a joint statement Wednesday.

The companies said the new technology—the product of a rare partnership between the rival tech giants—solves some of the main technical challenges that governments have had in building Bluetooth-based apps. It will make it easier for iPhones and Android phones to detect each other, work across national and regional borders and fix some of the problems that led previous apps to quickly drain a phone's battery.

The statement Wednesday also included remarks from state officials in North Dakota, Alabama and South Carolina signaling that they plan to use it.

Astronauts arrive for NASA's 1st home launch in decade

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The two astronauts who will end a nine-year launch drought for NASA arrived at Kennedy Space Center on Wednesday, exactly one week before their historic SpaceX flight.

It will be the first time a private company, rather than a national government, sends astronauts into orbit.

NASA test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken flew to Florida from their home base in Houston aboard one of the space agency's jets.

"It's an incredible time for NASA and the space program, once again launching U.S. crews from Florida and hopefully in just a week from about right now," Hurley told reporters minutes after arriving.

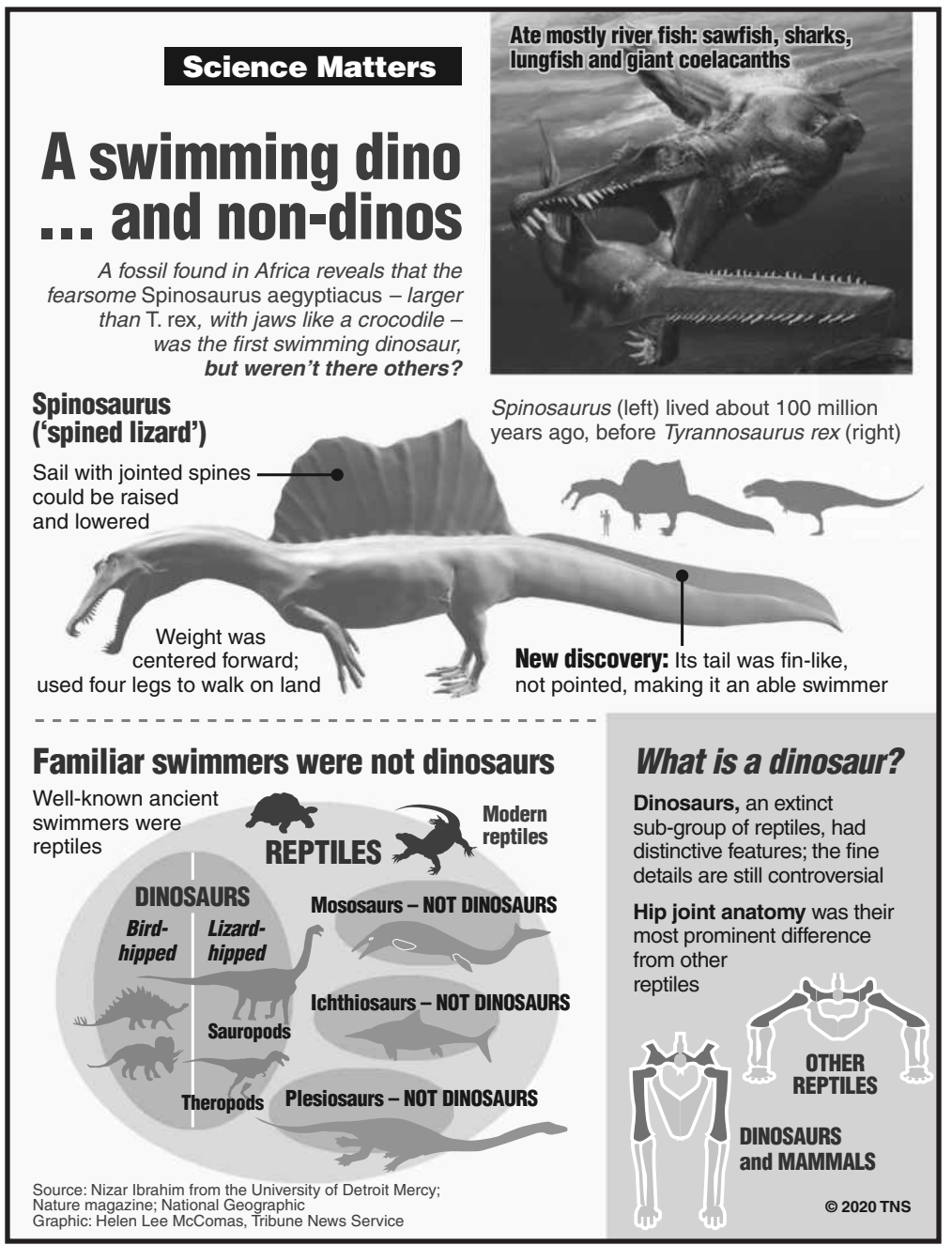
Hurley was one of the four astronauts who arrived at Kennedy on July 4, 2011, for the final space shuttle flight, "so it's incredibly humbling to be here to start out the next launch from the United States."

"We feel it as an opportunity but also a responsibility for the American people, for the SpaceX team, for all of NASA," Behnken added.

The two are scheduled to blast off next Wednesday afternoon atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, bound for the International Space Station. They'll soar from the same pad where Atlantis closed out the shuttle program in 2011, the last home launch for NASA astronauts.

Since then, the only way to the space station for astronauts has been on Russian rockets launched from Kazakhstan.

Hurley and Behnken still don't know how long they'll spend at the space station: anywhere between one and four months. Only one American is up there right now—astronaut Chris Cassidy—and could use a hand. Hurley said he got an email from Cassidy on Tuesday night in which he wrote that "he's looking forward to seeing our ugly mugs on board."


Science Matters
A swimming dino ... and non-dinos
A fossil found in Africa reveals that the fearsome Spinosaurus aegyptiacus – larger than T. rex, with jaws like a crocodile – was the first swimming dinosaur, but weren't there others?
Ate mostly river fish: sawfish, sharks, lungfish and giant coelacanths
Spinosaurus ('spined lizard')
Sail with jointed spines could be raised and lowered
Weight was centered forward; used four legs to walk on land
Spinosaurus (left) lived about 100 million years ago, before Tyrannosaurus rex (right)
New discovery: Its tail was fin-like, not pointed, making it an able swimmer
Familiar swimmers were not dinosaurs
Well-known ancient swimmers were reptiles
REPTILES
Modern reptiles
DINOSAURS
Bird-hipped
Lizard-hipped
Mososaurs – NOT DINOSAURS
Ichthiosaurs – NOT DINOSAURS
Sauropods
Theropods
Plesiosaurs – NOT DINOSAURS
What is a dinosaur?
Dinosaurs, an extinct sub-group of reptiles, had distinctive features; the fine details are still controversial
Hip joint anatomy was their most prominent difference from other reptiles
OTHER REPTILES
DINOSAURS and MAMMALS
Source: Nizar Ibrahim from the University of Detroit Mercy; Nature magazine; National Geographic
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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Reaching the limits of unlimited storage space in Google Photos

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: For years, I've been storing my camera and phone pictures to my online Google Photos account. (I download the camera photos to my PC and upload them to Google Photos from there.) But for the last couple of months I either haven't been able to upload the camera photos from my PC, or could only upload some photos but not others. Meanwhile, photos I take with my phone are still being uploaded to Google Photos. (I don't think this is caused by a shortage of online storage space, because Google Photos is set to "free unlimited storage.") What's wrong?

A: I think you have two problems: The Google Photos settings on your PC don't match those on your phone, and your unlimited storage actually does have a limit.

Normally, Google Photos must share its 15 gigabytes of free online storage with your e-mail (Gmail) and cloud data storage (Google Drive.) One advantage of this sharing arrangement is that Google stores your photos at their "original" quality—they retain the amount of data they had when you took them.

But, as you've discovered, Google also offers another choice called "high quality," which comes with the promise of "free unlimited storage." Under this option, Google Photos uses a technique called "data compression" that discards some of the data in each photo you store, permanently lowering the photo's visual quality (a 10-megabyte photo will be shrunk to 2 or 3 megabytes.) Because these compressed photos take up less storage space, Google gives you something in return: Your "high quality" photos will no longer count against your 15 gigabytes of shared storage; this essentially gives you unlimited photo storage.

Here's where the settings on your PC and phone come in. They connect to Google Photos in different ways, so you must choose the "high quality" photo storage option on each device. While your PC is using the "high quality" method, I suspect that your phone is not.

As a result, your phone is storing photos online in "original" quality, which uses up a larger and larger portion of your 15 gigabytes of shared storage. If you've been doing this for years, your shared storage may be approaching zero. Once your Google account is full, you won't be able to store any more data—even your "unlimited" photo storage will stop.

Running low on storage could show up in a couple of ways:

■ If your 15-gigabyte allotment is nearly used up, you might be able to upload a limited number of additional pictures to Google Photos. This would explain why, on some days, you could upload some photos and not others.

■ Your remaining available storage might fluctuate daily as a result of adding or deleting data from Photos, Gmail or Drive. As a result, you might be able to store additional photos one day but not the next. This would explain the times that you couldn't upload photos.

What can you do? Delete some data, or buy additional storage capacity (Google charges $2 a month for 100 gigabytes.)

Alternatively, you can reclaim some storage space by using the Google Photos "recover storage" button (below and to the right of the "high quality" box you've already checked.)

That will downsize your existing "original quality" photos to "high quality" so that they aren't counted against your 15-gigabytes of shared storage. You should also change your phone's Google Photos setting so that, in the future, it stores photos online at "high quality" instead of "original." (To change the Google Photos picture quality on any device, see tinyurl.com/yc3hcuf7).

Life & Style

‘Incredible’: Italian woman wins 1-million-euro Picasso

PARIS (AP)—An Italian accountant whose son bought her the raffle ticket as a Christmas present won a Pablo Picasso oil painting valued at 1 million euros ($1.1 million) in a charity draw Wednesday.

Claudia Borgogno summed up her amazement in one word: “Incredible.”

“I have never won anything before,” the 58-year-old told The Associated Press from her home in Ventimiglia, northern Italy. She said she likes Picasso, and the prospect of being able to hang one of the 20th Century master’s paintings on her wall was still sinking in.

Her son, Lorenzo Naso, bought two tickets in December, sending one to his mother.

“It was maybe the best decision in my life,” he told The AP.

The ticket was picked out in an electronic draw at the auction house Christie’s in Paris.

Organizers valued the painting, “Nature Morte,” or Still Life, as being worth 1 million euros. The billionaire art collector who provided it, David Nahmad, said the work is worth “at least two, three times” that.

“Claudia has won this extraordinary painting tonight that is worth one million and so is a millionaire,” organizer Peri Cochin announced after Borgogno’s name and winning ticket number were displayed on a screen.

The 51,140 tickets sold online for 100 euros ($109) each. Proceeds are going to provide water for villagers in Madagascar and Cameroon.

The draw was originally scheduled for March but delayed by the coronavirus pandemic. Naso told The AP that he hadn’t realized it was taking place Wednesday and wasn’t watching the live broadcast.

The call from organizers to say that his mother had won came as shock.

She didn’t believe it.

“When I arrived and I told her she has won she was like, ‘Please don’t joke,’” he said. “She is not going to sleep tonight.”

Naso, an analyst for the European Union’s securities markets regulator, lives in Paris but has been staying with his mother in Italy during the coronavirus lockdown.

“It was a pretty awful period for us during this lockdown and now it’s great news,” he said.

AP

The painting “Nature morte” by Picasso hangs on a wall at Christie’s auction house, Tuesday, May 19, 2020 in Paris.

UN agency warns pandemic could kill 1 in 8 museums worldwide

BRUSSELS (AP)—Museums are starting to reopen in some countries as governments ease coronavirus restrictions, but experts warn one in eight worldwide could face permanent closure due to the pandemic.

Studies by UNESCO and the International Council of Museums show 90% of the planet’s museums, some 85,000 institutions, have had to shut at least temporarily.

“It is alarming data that we are giving,” Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director General for Culture at UNESCO said in an interview with the Associated Press Tuesday.

He said the problem cuts across the board, affecting museums big and small, new and established, featuring art or science.

Museums that indicated they might well not reopen, he said, “have been closed for months and they have no revenues. And they don’t know how they’re going to get their revenues.”

And once they do reopen, Ottone said, “they (won’t) have the capacity to update their infrastructure” to conform with social distancing and other pandemic precautions.

Some costly blockbuster shows have suffered heavy damage this spring. A once-in-a-lifetime exhibit bringing together fragile paintings by Flemish master Jan van Eyck had barely opened in Ghent, Belgium, when it was abruptly canceled. It won’t be resumed, as many of the works were on loan and had to be returned.

In Rome, a similar superstar show on Renaissance artist Raphael had to close after just three days, but was able to hold on to all 120 works and will now reopen June 2 through Aug. 30.

Overall, the picture is dark, more Munch than Monet.

“Nearly 13% of museums around the world may never reopen,” UNESCO and ICOM said in a joint statement, saying those in poorer countries faced a greater risk.

Things are pretty bleak in wealthy countries too.

The Network of European Museum Organizations said large institutions in tourist hotspots like Paris, Amsterdam or Vienna have suffered income losses of up to 80 percent, that can reach hundreds of thousands of euros (dollars) a week.

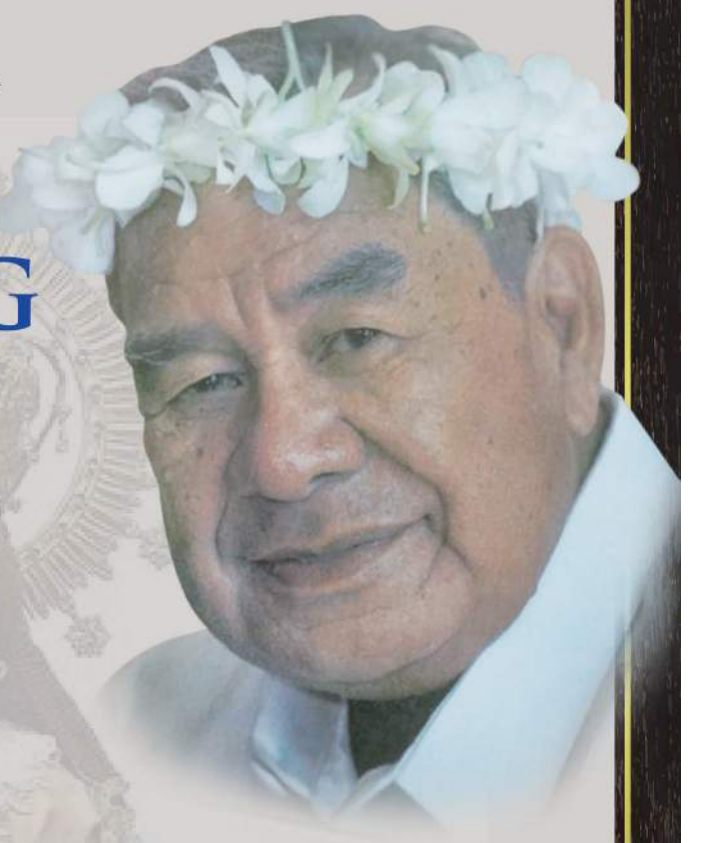
Places like the Stedelijk and Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, or the Kunsthistorisches in Vienna, could lose up to 2.5 million euros ($2.75 million) a month.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

In God’s Loving Care

†JOSE REBUENOG LIFOIFOI

Born to Life: October 26, 1936
Called to Eternal Life: May 18, 2020



In his new life, he is reunited with his:
Parents: Alfonso Camacho Lifoifoi & Adela Selepeo Lifoifoi
Parents in-law: Ngo See Ho & Elena Panaguiton Ho
Wife: Amalia Taisacan Lifoifoi
Daughter: Josephine L. Tajibmai
Son: Joseph T. Lifoifoi

His legacy and memory will forever live on with his loving:
Wife: Cecilia H. Lifoifoi

Children & Grandchildren:
Joseph T. & Risha Lifoifoi: Joseph Jr., Vincent Peter
Remedio L. Pangelinan: Amalia Adela, Jose David, Amanda Grace
Ignacia L. & Manny Evangelista: Alfonso Jose, Amalina Delamona, Ace Carlos, Aven Manny, Achilles Elijah
†Josephine L. & Sebastian Tajibmai: Barry, Faithlynn, Sebastian Jr.
Angel S. Hocog
Alfred John Taisacan: Amalie, Kimberly, Kiani
Paterno & Elizabeth Hocog: Anginette, †Andrei, Carrie, Paterno Jose, Patty Beth, Paterno Jr.

Brothers & Sisters:
Rosalia L. & †Jimmy Marquez & Family
†Donata L. & Herman Taitano & Family
Victor S. & Julita Lifoifoi & Family
Fermin S. & Rosita Lifoifoi & Family
†Guillermo R. & Felicidad Lifoifoi & Family
† Maria L. & Fred Napo & Daughter
†Bertha L. & James Phillips & Family
†Ines L. & †Esteven Nogis & Family

Brothers & Sisters In-law:
Rosa & Saturnino Milanes & Family
Jose Herbert & Josephine Ho & Sons
Jocelyn Ho
Zenaida & †Benjamin Sr. Gonzales & Family
Corazon & Vic Rodriguez & Family
William & Elizabeth Ho & Daughter
David Ho

Funeral date will be announced at a later date.

Olomwaay, Si Yu’us Ma’ase, & Thank You
CECILIA H. LIFOIFOI, CHILDREN, & FAMILY

Oprah Winfrey gives grants to 'home' cities during pandemic

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is giving grants to the cities she's called home through her $12 million coronavirus relief fund.

She announced Wednesday that her Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation will donate money to organizations dedicated to helping underserved communities in Chicago; Baltimore; Nashville, Tennessee; Milwaukee; and Kosciusko, Mississippi, where she was born.

"The reason I'm talking about it is because there is going to be a need for people of means to step up," Winfrey said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I mean, this thing is not going away. Even when the virus is gone, the devastation left by people not being able to work for months who were holding on paycheck to paycheck, who have used up their savings—people are going to be in need. So my thing is, look in your own neighborhood, in your own backyard to see how you can serve and where your service is most essential. That is the real essential work, I think, for people of means."

Winfrey

After speaking with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and other leaders, Winfrey decided to give $5 million to Live Healthy Chicago, which provides immediate support to seniors and high-risk residents affected by the coronavirus.

In Nashville, where Winfrey lived with her father and started her media career, she is giving $2 million to NashvilleNurtures, a collaboration with Mount Zion Baptist Church and Tennessee State University, Winfrey's alma mater. They plan to feed 10,000 families in and around the city.

In Milwaukee, where she lived with her mother, Winfrey is assisting those in need of housing and mental health care with a $100,000 donation to SaintA and The Nia Imani Family, Inc.

In Baltimore, where Winfrey also built her media career, she's donating money to Living Classrooms Foundation and Center for Urban Families.

She will also give $115,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of East Mississippi.

"I'm not opposed to big organizations dispersing money, but I always like to do the on-the-ground grassroots stuff myself," she said. "Look, I want to be able to reach people who have been incarcerated and are coming out of prison. I want to reach mothers of domestic violence. I want to reach people. I want to feed people. I want to help people get access to testing."

Winfrey said she's been homebound since March 11, four days after she wrapped her nine-city wellness tour that visited arenas like Barclays Center in Brooklyn and the Forum in Inglewood, California.

Song critical of Polish leader disappears from hit chart

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A song took aim at an alleged abuse of power by Poland's ruling party leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski. It rose to the top of the chart of a public radio station. Then it disappeared.

The public broadcaster is now accused of censorship. The scandal, which has been a top issue of public debate in recent days, has prompted several resignations from the station, Radio Trojka, and left some musicians vowing to boycott it.

The affair has created new worries about media freedom in Poland. Since Kaczynski's party won power in 2015, it has used public media as a propaganda tool in violation of its mandate to be neutral. In the past five years, Poland has fallen in the World Press Freedom Index from 18th to 62nd place.

Kaczynski isn't himself accused of ordering the removal of the song from a listener-voted chart, and members of the government have also been critical of what happened. Instead, the song's removal is seen as the kind of self-censorship that happens by overzealous underlings in a system where democratic standards are under threat.

Wojciech Mann, a journalist who left Radio Trojka in March, said the story played out at the bottom of a "a ladder of fear" where Kaczynski sits at the top.

The song, "Your Pain is Better than Mine," is by singer and songwriter Kazik Staszewski, known better as just Kazik.

The lyrics of the folk rock song describe an April 10 visit by Kaczynski to Warsaw's Powazki Cemetery that infuriated many Poles because cemeteries in the country were closed to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It was the 10th anniversary of the plane crash in Russia that killed his twin brother, President Lech Kaczynski, and 95 others. Kaczynski was driven in a limousine and protected by bodyguards as he entered the closed cemetery to visit his mother's grave and a memorial to his brother and other crash victims.

NPR says $4.7 million grant boosts local news efforts

NEW YORK (AP) — National Public Radio said Tuesday that it has received a $4.7 million grant that will allow it to fund investigative reporting units for regional hubs in California and the Midwest.

The money comes to NPR from a foundation set up by former Google chief executive Eric Schmidt and his wife, Wendy. It's the largest gift NPR has received for its collaborative journalism work.

With the money, NPR is adding a newsroom that connects its member stations in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. The Schmidt grant also funds a news-sharing effort in California that was announced earlier this year. NPR already has regional hubs in Texas and a newer one for the Gulf Coast states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"With so many newsrooms in decline, we need to invest in strengthening reporting resources from trusted sources like public radio," Wendy Schmidt said. "These regional news hubs will not only increase local reporting of critical issues, they will also elevate diverse voices and perspectives in regional and national stories."

The newsrooms will hire small teams of journalists to work with local station reporters on public service investigations, said Nancy Barnes, NPR's senior vice president for news and editorial director.

She called it "the type of journalism that has been eroding at the local level as newspapers scale back."

NPR says it has plans for more regional newsrooms.

Message of Appreciation

†Herman Sablan Sablan

No words could ever express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our family and friends, near and far, for the love and support you have shown us after the passing of our beloved husband / father, grand - and - great - grandfather, **†HERMAN S. SABLAN**. Your love, prayers and support have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to ease our pain and revert our sense of loss to rejoice that our beloved †HERMAN now rests in the hands of our Lord and Savior. Each day is a challenge, but also a blessing, and with your prayers and God's help, we will get through this difficult time. Know that the kindness and compassion you've given to our family will be forever remembered. God bless you all!

THANK YOU & SI YU'US MA'ASI

Rita F. Sablan and The Family

Prayer to St. Rita

ST. RITA

Wife, Mother, Widow, Nun

O Holy Patroness of those in need, St. Rita, whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible, who for thy lavishness in granting favors hast been called the Advocate of the Hopeless and even of the Impossible; St. Rita, so humble, so pure, so mortified, so patient and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus that thou couldst obtain from Him whatsoever thou askest, on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee, expecting, if not always relief, at least comfort; be propitious to our petition, showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant; be lavish to us, as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases, for the greater glory of God, for the spreading of thine own devotion, and for the consolation of those who trust in thee. We promise, if our petition is granted, to glorify thee by making known thy favor, to bless and sing thy praises forever. Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray thee that ***(here mention your request).***

Feast Day: May 22
Patron Saint of: Hopeless cases, victims of abuse and widows.

St. Rita was born in Umbria, Italy, about the year 1386, and died at Cascia, in the year 1456. Being the daughter of parents who were advanced in years, she met with much opposition when she let it be known of her intention of becoming a nun. Yielding to her parents desires, she married a cruel man. After converting him from his wicked ways, he was murdered by criminals. Left alone in the world, she applied several times for admissions into the Augustinian convent in Cascia.

Every application was refused, and God Himself cleared away all obstacles and she entered the convent, made her profession and lived the life of a holy and devout religious for forty-two years, "a shining example of every Christian virtue, pure as a lily, simple as a dove, and obedient as an angel." That "God is wonderful in His saints" is easily proven in the life of St. Rita.

On one occasion Rita requested a rose to be brought to her from her garden at Porena in the middle of winter. The rose was found in full bloom. At another time, she asked for a fig, and the same was found.

The reports of these wonders spread far and wide and people flocked to the convent from all parts of the world, only to receive in return for their faith in God through the prayers of Rita many spiritual and earthly favors. Because of the great number of miracles made possible by St. Rita, she is often called "The Saint of the Impossible."

Daytime Emmys is back on TV, but with socially distanced show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Daytime Emmy Awards are skipping a theater ceremony because of the coronavirus but the honors will be presented on a TV broadcast.

CBS' decision to air the awards on June 26 is a bright spot for the daytime honors, which had been consigned to an online presentation in recent years as viewer interest dwindled.

Nominations for the 47th annual Daytime Emmys are to be announced Thursday on CBS' "The Talk," with categories including best drama series, talk show and game show.

The New York-based National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, which organizes the daytime awards, had previously announced it wouldn't hold the traditional theater ceremony out of pandemic safety concerns.

Awards will be presented on the CBS broadcast in leading categories, with winners and "other special guests appearing from home in light of the COVID-19 pandemic," the network and academy said in a joint announcement.

Winners in other categories will be announced on Twitter during the two-hour telecast, with more awards to be presented in a July ceremony, the academy said.

CBS is "thrilled to welcome back the Daytime Emmy Awards," said Jack Sussman, the network's executive vice president in charge of specials and live events. The network is the home of daytime shows including soap operas "The Young and the Restless" and "The Bold and the Beautiful."

'Twilight' actor found dead with girlfriend in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—An actor in the film "Twilight" and his girlfriend were found dead last week in a Las Vegas condominium, authorities said Tuesday.

Clark County Coroner John Fudenberg said foul play was not suspected in the May 13 deaths of Gregory Tyree Boyce, 30, and Natalie Adenike Adepoju, 27.

The coroner said their causes and manners of death won't be known until medical examiners receive toxicology test results in several weeks.

The bodies were found after police were summoned to a report of a dead body in a residential complex several miles east of the Las Vegas Strip, police said.

Las Vegas Police Officer Larry Hadfield, a department spokesman, said the deaths were not considered to be the result of a criminal act.

Boyce appeared as Tyler Crowley in the 2008 film starring Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

Boyce's mother, Lisa Wayne, said in a Facebook post on Sunday that she had planned to meet with Boyce today to talk about a chicken wing business they wanted to open. She referred also to Boyce's 10-year-old daughter. Adepoju had a 4-year-old son.

Body of WWE's Shad Gaspard found after suspected drowning

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The body of former World Wrestling Entertainment pro Shad Gaspard was found early Wednesday on Los Angeles' Venice Beach, after he was caught in a rip current last weekend, police said.

Patrol officers were flagged down around 1:25 a.m. by a person reporting that a body had washed ashore, a Police Department statement said.

He was identified as Gaspard and his family was notified, police said. Gaspard went missing last Sunday after he went swimming with his 10-year-old son, Aryeh.

The boy was rescued and several other swimmers made it out of the water safely.

Gaspard, 39, gained prominence in the WWE as one half of the tag-team group Cryme Tyme, along with his partner, JTG. After retiring in 2010, Gaspard has had small roles on TV and in movies, including the 2015 Kevin Hart comedy "Get Hard."

He was about 50 yards (46 meters) from shore when he was last spotted by a lifeguard, police said. A wave crashed over him and he was swept out to sea.

His wife, Siliana Gaspard, issued a statement Tuesday thanking authorities and fans.

"We would like to express our gratitude to the first responders who rescued Aryeh and to the lifeguards, coast guard, divers, fire and police departments for their continued efforts to help find our beloved Shad," the statement

Elisabeth, heir to Belgian throne, to join military school

BRUSSELS (AP)—Princess Elisabeth, the heir to the Belgian throne, is signing up to do a year in military school to help her prepare for her royal duties.

The palace announced Wednesday that the princess, 18, will enter the Royal Military School in central Brussels for a one-year course in social and military sciences. Her father, King Philippe, also attended the school.

"She joins a long tradition within the royal family," the statement said.

She is set to graduate from the United World College of the Atlantic in Wales at the end of the month.

AP

In this photo taken on Thursday, July 11, 2019, King Philippe of Belgium, left, and Belgium's Princess Elisabeth visit the King's office for the recordings of his speech for Belgian National Day at the Royal Palace in Brussels.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

NBC Sports announcers taking pay cuts until end of year

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—NBC's on-air personalities are taking a pay cut through the rest of the year because of the coronavirus pandemic. NBC Sports Group President Pete Bevacqua said in a statement that the pay cuts are voluntary. "Our on-air personalities reached out to see how they could contribute to helping our company during this difficult time … It's another reminder of the truly great team we have at NBC Sports and how we're all working together to get through this immense challenge," Bevacqua said. The pay cuts range from 5% to 10%. NBCUniversal executives are taking 20% pay cuts and those making more than $100,000 are seeing a 3% salary reduction. The NBC salary reductions are part of an industry trend. Last month, ESPN and Fox asked much of their top on-air talent to take 15% pay cuts through July.

Malaysia drops charge against 'Wolf of Wall Street' producer

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian prosecutors have dropped money laundering charges against "The Wolf of Wall Street" film producer and stepson of ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak in a move slammed by Human Rights Watch on Friday as a "triumph for impunity and corruption." Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said he was worried the move could set a precedent in graft cases in which "thieves will be let off if they return the stolen money." Riza Aziz reached a settlement with the government and was discharged Thursday without being formally acquitted, meaning that prosecutors can revive the charge. The anti-graft agency said in a statement that the government will recover $107.3 million of overseas assets involved in the case—about 43% of the $248 million Aziz was accused of having laundered from the 1MDB state investment fund—and Riza is also required to pay an unspecified fine.

Hart surprises New Jersey doctor with bit part

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kevin Hart found an upside to putting his name to a charitable cause during the coronavirus pandemic: the comedian offered a walk-on role in a future film to a health-care worker in the COVID-19 fight. Henry Law, an anesthesiologist in New Jersey, got the call from Hart ("Jumanji") that he had been randomly selected as the winner in an All In Challenge contest. The challenge was launched by Michael Rubin, the founder of the online retailer Fanatics. The challenge raises money for organizations that are feeding the hungry during the pandemic, including Meals on Wheels, No Kid Hungry, America's Food Fund, World Central Kitchen and Feeding America. Most of the blockbuster prizes offered involve bank-busting bids to share experiences with A-list celebrities and athletes.

Man's effort to contact his newfound family is ignored

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out who my biological father is/was. Apparently, my mother and this man had an affair more than 50 years ago. There's only speculation as to why.

What bothers me is, I have always lived no more than 15 miles from this man and his family. I tried reaching out to the one half-sibling I am most knowledgeable about. They have made no attempt to contact me about this elephant in the room. I don't know if it's shame or embarrassment on their part.

I am a respectable man with a great family. Why someone would not want to reach out and at least get to know a brother they supposedly never knew existed is beyond me. We've wasted way too many years kept in the dark about this well-kept secret. My thought is that you can never have too big a family—even if we are only half-siblings. Should I continue attempting to reach them, or just sweep all of this under the rug and pretend it never happened?

EXPANDING THE FAMILY IN OHIO

DEAR EXPANDING: Not everyone is as open-hearted or inclusive as you. After half a century, your birth father's family may prefer not to open this chapter of their father's life, and they should not be forced to. Because you have already reached out to them without getting a response, I don't think you should push the issue. You wrote that you are a respectable man with a great family. Count your blessings, because not everyone is so fortunate.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 42-year-old man who lives at home with my parents after getting out of an abusive relationship. A full night's sleep is important to me and waking up early from avoidable noises is upsetting because I am unable to go back to sleep. My mother's cellphone is what's waking me up.

I have asked her numerous times to turn off the ringer at night. She has no reason to be a go-to for emergencies, yet she acts as if she is. The last time I asked, she actually told me the phone calls she missed (because she forgot to turn her ringer back on) are more important than my sleep.

She says she's glad I'm back living at home because I am making life a little easier for them. They are getting old, and I have come to the conclusion I will be here taking care of my parents in the coming years.

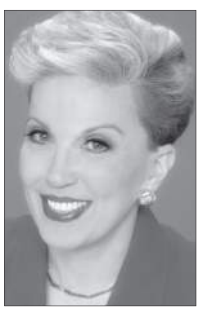
I have told Mom numerous times to have her hearing checked, too, to no avail. I think that may be why her cellphone ringer blares so loudly. On numerous occasions I have been sitting upstairs and heard Dad ask her a question in the living room, and Mom, who is sitting right next to him, says, "What?" She's in denial about her hearing.

I would rather not move out, but I am about ready to do it for peace and quiet. Do you have any words of wisdom for me?

INJURED EARS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR INJURED EARS: Yes, I do. Ask your mother to put her phone on vibrate at bedtime or use its do-not-disturb feature between certain hours. If she refuses, then purchasing a white noise machine might be a solution.

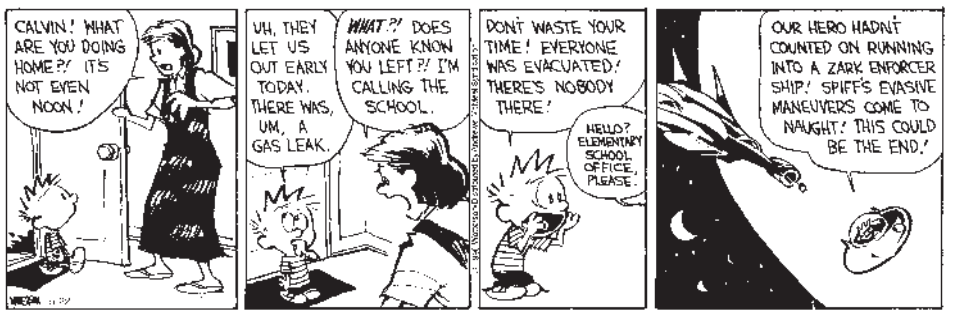
Suggest to your father that he inform their doctor about your mother's hearing problems. Perhaps if the doctor tells her it's time to have her hearing checked by an audiologist, she won't tune out the message.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME?! IT'S NOT EVEN NOON!
UH, THEY LET US OUT EARLY TODAY. THERE WAS, UM, A GAS LEAK.
WHAT?! DOES ANYONE KNOW YOU LEFT?! I'M CALLING THE SCHOOL.
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME! EVERYONE WAS EVACUATED! THERE'S NOBODY THERE!
HELLO? ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OFFICE, PLEASE.
OUR HERO HADN'T COUNTED ON RUNNING INTO A ZARK ENFORCER SHIP! SPIFF'S EVASIVE MANEUVERS COME TO NAUGHT! THIS COULD BE THE END.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

FINE. I'LL WEAR A T-SHIRT IN THE FRONT YARD, BUT IT'S SILLY.
NO ONE ACTUALLY COMPLAINED ABOUT MY PALENESS OR MY HAIRINESS.
WHAT ABOUT THAT OLD LADY WHO BURST INTO TEARS?
I THINK SHE WAS GOING THROUGH SOME THINGS.
WELL, I'M SURE SHE IS NOW.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

MEDITATING?
TRYING TO FOCUS ON SELF-AWARENESS.
I SEE... HOW'S IT WORKING?
WELL, I'M AWARE THAT I'M SITTING ON THE FLOOR IN MY UNDERWEAR AND FEELING PRETTY SILLY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Now, where — I?"
4 Pro votes
8 Chief Greek god
12 College URL ender
13 Fall bloomers
14 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
15 Pastel color
17 Portal
18 Red-tag event
19 Director Welles
20 Icky stuff
22 Loafer, for one
24 Helps
25 Foolish chatter
29 Soul, to Camus
30 Crude dudes
31 Man-mouse link
32 Bitterness
34 Swedish man's name
35 Cavort
36 En- treaties
37 Ersatz chocolate
40 Nest egg choices
41 Awestruck
42 Industri- ous folks
46 "Star Trek" helmsman
47 Guthrie of folk
48 Ms. Gardner
49 Story
50 Winged
51 — -Mex cuisine

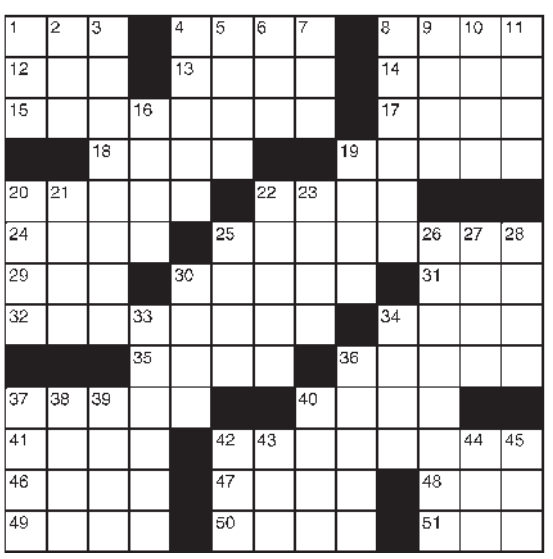
DOWN

1 Entangle- ment
2 Nabokov novel
3 Abated
4 Saunter
5 Christmas
6 Outback bird
7 Away from NNW
8 Capital of Croatia
9 Eventful periods
10 "Do — others ..."
11 Beheld
16 Thanks- giving veggies
19 Reactions to fireworks
20 Swedish auto
21 Peru's capital
22 Sailing vessel
23 Difficult
25 Pros- perous period
26 Chair for two
27 Location
28 Prince in "Frozen"
30 Shapeless sci-fi villain
33 Irish accent
34 Thick chunk
36 Comic Richard
37 Group of actors
38 Oaxaca water
39 Ham- burger holder
40 Actress Fisher
42 Cote cry
43 Internet address
44 Wife of Adam
45 Kenny G's instru- ment

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	U	A	C		A	P	B		S	M	J	G
E	D	N	A		S	T	U		H	U	L	A
R	O	A	R		P	A	Z		I	S	M	S
E	N	G	A	G	E		Z	I	N	C		
			W	E	N	T	S	T	E	A	D	Y
A	T	L	A	S		R	A	T		T	E	E
W	H	E	Y		D	E	W		P	E	E	N
H	O	G		N	E	A		F	I	L	M	S
C	U	T	O	F	S	T	Y	L	C			
		U	G	L			C	L	R	O	P	C
K	A	R	L		G	M	A		S	R	A	M
I	D	E	E		N	O	S		E	C	R	U
T	O	S	S		S	O	T		D	A	D	S

Yesterday's answer 5-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Novak Djokovic, 33; Apolo Ohno, 38; Ginnifer Goodwin, 42; Naomi Campbell, 50.

Happy Birthday: Size up situations, and put a plan in place. Broaden your vision, and embrace any opportunity to try something new and exciting. How you use your skills, knowledge and time to make an impact will influence your reputation. Make a name for yourself by being a doer, helper and humanitarian. Stand tall and set an example. Your numbers are 3, 15, 22, 27, 30, 36, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Remember people, places and projects; this will help you decide what you want to pursue. Establish how you can achieve your goal without jeopardizing any rules or infringing on others. Planning will make a difference in the outcome. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Adapt to what's going on around you to ease tension, but keep your objective in sight. Don't let a problematic relationship put a wedge between you and your goals. Consider your options, make a decision and get on with life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Let your thought process play out until you are satisfied. Preparation is vital if you want your expertise to be acknowledged. Expect the competition you face to be fierce, and proceed with a winner's mindset. 3 stars

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Transparency will be required if you want to avoid misunderstandings. Question anyone who seems to be hiding something. Take care of your responsibilities. Do your fact-finding and avoid joint ventures. Don't give in to emotional blackmail. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Offer suggestions and share experiences and knowledge, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Being humble, gracious and kind is honorable, but not at your own expense. You will gain more respect if you are explicit regarding what you will and won't do. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Listen to complaints, but recognize when someone is trying to take advantage of you. Your insight and solutions will lead to support that will help you achieve your personal interests. Don't be impulsive; a well-thought-out plan will bring higher returns. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll face a learning curve, but with discipline and hard work, will lead to something worthwhile. Trust your instincts, not what people tell you. Knowledge is power, and the more you know, the better you do. Concentrate on personal growth. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You have more options than you realize. Head down a path that requires imagination and talent. The outcome will bring you satisfaction as well as recognition. Not everyone will be honest with you. Choose partners carefully. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Stick to the truth, and promise only what's possible. Expect the people you deal with to withhold important information that's crucial to making a better decision. Discipline, coupled with having a passion for what you do, will lead to success. Work alone. ✪✪✪

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4					
		7		6		3
		2	8 5		4	6
	1				5	
		8			2	
		5				9
	7	3		4	5	1
4			3			9
						2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	4	9	5	2	8	7	6	3
2	3	6	1	7	9	5	8	4
5	8	7	4	3	6	1	2	9
4	9	5	2	8	1	3	7	6
3	6	2	9	5	7	4	1	8
7	1	8	6	4	3	2	9	5
6	7	3	8	1	4	9	5	2
8	5	1	3	9	2	6	4	7
9	2	4	7	6	5	8	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Think big, but when it comes time to follow through, don't go over budget. A last-minute change someone makes will limit your options. Size up your situation, and you'll realize what you'll have to do to get back on track. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll have the intelligence and the energy to pull off whatever you set out to achieve. Don't trust or rely on someone who talks big. A physical change at home will turn out to be beneficial. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep a low profile, and take care of responsibilities. Use your imagination when solving problems, and you will impress someone close to you. Reconnect with someone from your past, and an unexpected opportunity will come your way. ✪✪✪✪

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FLORIDA'S ISLANDS **Solution:** 10 letters

A	L	S	R	W	S	A	N	D	S	P	U	R	T	S
V	L	E	E	A	L	T	S	E	U	E	A	R	T	P
I	E	L	V	T	I	B	R	E	N	I	P	G	I	B
T	K	T	I	E	A	U	I	I	S	O	I	C	R	A
P	C	T	R	R	S	S	L	B	E	D	N	A	R	Y
A	I	E	C	A	A	E	L	I	T	I	L	L	E	S
C	R	N	E	N	R	P	T	S	C	L	E	A	M	A
A	B	R	N	O	A	U	S	C	T	A	T	D	E	N
Y	T	A	H	T	N	A	P	A	L	M	H	E	L	T
O	O	S	T	A	N	Y	O	Ⓨ	G	C	O	S	B	A
C	G	I	E	I	T	B	Ⓔ	N	A	A	C	I	A	R
O	R	P	B	I	G	Ⓚ	D	E	P	O	R	T	T	O
S	A	E	C	N	S	O	B	N	D	D	A	D	A	S
T	L	N	O	O	G	A	L	M	I	A	M	I	E	A
A	I	L	E	M	A	I	R	A	M	W	E	S	T	N

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Amelia, Anna, Bays, Beach, Big Pine, Bird, Biscayne, Brickell, Caladesi, Captiva, Cayo Costa, City, Crabs, Dog, Garden, Gasparilla, Inlet, Key, Lagoon, Largo, Lido, Longboat, Marco, Maria, Merritt, Miami, Nettles, Palm, Peanut, Picnic, Port, Ritta, River, Sail, Sandspur, Sanibel, Santa Rosa, Shoreline, Siesta, Sunset, Tea Table, Treasure, Water, West

Yesterday's Answer: Pineapple

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NBA teams may soon recall players

NEW YORK—It seems like we are getting one step closer to the 2019-20 NBA season resuming.

Teams across the league expect the NBA to issue new guidelines that will allow franchises to start recalling players who left their markets to be quarantined somewhere else, that's according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

This league wide decision is expected to happen around June 1.

Teams also feel that around that June 1st date they will be allowed to expand on the restrictive individual workouts that have been put in place since early May.

More and more teams across the league have been opening their practice facilities with several safety measures in place.

The Trail Blazers were one of the first teams to open their facilities' doors.

A total of nine players out of the 11 who are still in the area showed up to use the Trail Blazers practice facility when it opened on May 8.

The three players who have not been quarantined in the Portland area are Anfernee Simons, Trevor Ariza and Hassan Whiteside.

Coronavirus anti-body study

In June, the Mayo Clinic and Minnesota Timberwolves will lead a study that hopes to determine what percentage of NBA personnel have developed antibodies to the novel coronavirus.

The study has garnered support from the league office and players' union, and players, coaches, executives and staff from all 30 NBA teams will participate. The study will feature either a finger prick procedure or drawing blood through a vein— the former a marked step towards more rapid, accessible and remote (and thus, safer) antibody testing.

Volunteers from 26 of 30 MLB teams recently participated in a similar study, which found COVID-19 antibody prevalence in 0.7% of the league's employee population - a figure lower than expert projections at the time, according to ESPN's Jeff Passan. Per Passan, 70% of respondents who tested positive for antibodies were asymptomatic.

So, what does this mean for the NBA? Testing for antibodies is not the same as testing for COVID-19 infection or immunity. It is rather a means of collecting information on what percentage of NBA personnel might have contracted the virus (and, crucially, were asymptomatic) and how the virus has moved throughout the NBA world.

Multiple NBA players who have publicly announced they contracted COVID-19 have donated their blood plasma for antibody-related research, including Marcus Smart of the Boston Celtics.

Walt Disney frontrunner

A little over a week into Adam Silver's stated two-to-four week timeline for a decision on the fate of the NBA season, Orlando's Walt Disney World Resort has emerged as the "clear frontrunner" to host the league's return to action.

Sources said that players resuming full training in mid-June and playing in mid-July is a "popular and possible scenario."

The property has been in reports as one of the league's top two potential play site candidates, along with Las Vegas, site the league is considering. The Athletic report confirmed that, but said "Orlando is on track to win its bid so long as final details regarding testing and hotel use are resolved."

The particulars of what a "bubble" site would precisely look like remains to be seen. In the past, NBA players have reportedly raised concerns over intrusive surveillance measures and being separated from their families for an extended period during a global crisis.

The resort has an abundance of housing space and basketball facilities; the resort is private property, so the integrity of a quarantined "bubble" would be easier to maintain; and Disney and the NBA have a healthy pre-existing relationship—the partnership between Disney-owned ESPN and the NBA, specifically, could help facilitate broadcasting games if and when they resume.

Further, Gov. Ron DeSantis publicly extended an open invitation to all professional sports leagues to attempt their resumption bids in Florida earlier in May.

"All professional sports are welcome here for practicing and for playing," DeSantis said at a news conference. "What I would tell commissioners of leagues is, if you have a team in an area where they just won't let them operate, we'll find a place for you here in the state of Florida." ***(AP/NBC)***

AP

In this Feb. 21, 2020 file photo, New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson, right, is blocked by Portland Trail Blazers' Trevor Ariza during the first half of an NBA game in Portland.

Fans essential for Ryder Cup

PARIS—Add veteran Lee Westwood to the chorus of player voices regarding the need for fans at this year's Ryder Cup.

Westwood has represented Europe in the biennial matches 10 times, plus a stint as a vice captain two years ago in France. Echoing previous comments from the likes of Rory McIlroy and Brooks Koepka, Westwood said that it's hard for him to envision the merit of playing a fan-less Ryder Cup because of coronavirus precautions.

"I just don't see somebody holing the winning putt, from either side, on the 18th green or wherever it may be, turning to an empty stand, raising his hands in the air and it feeling the same," Westwood said. "It's never going to feel the same, with what's going on. But if any tournament needs fans, it's that tournament. Just for me, the fans are essential for the Ryder Cup."

While dozens of tournaments around the world have been postponed or canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ryder Cup remains on schedule for Sept. 25-27 at Whistling Straits. No final decision has been made about fan attendance scenarios, but European captain Padraig Harrington said last month that the tournament may need to "take one for the team" and play without fans in the greater interest of the overall sport.

That's not a scenario that sits well with Westwood, who added that a postponement to 2021 "may be needed" if the only remaining scenario calls for matches to be played in front of empty galleries. But there's also the matter of qualification, with the process flown into flux by months of canceled events.

Westwood is currently in line to qualify automatically for the European squad, thanks in large part to his win earlier this year at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship. But with the European Tour sidelined until at least late July, he expects some adjustments may be needed if the matches are still going to be played this fall as scheduled.

While the U.S. qualification system includes the results from majors and WGC events played in 2019, Europeans only began accruing points toward the European Ryder Cup standings in September 2019.

"I know we've only played for 37 percent of the points on the European Tour. That's only just over a third. A lot can happen. We've not played any majors in the qualification process," Westwood said. "I think we might have to modify it a little bit. I think Padraig is pleased with the way the team's shaping up, and the way that qualifying has gone. But at the same point, there are people on the outside that would have been some of the favorites to get in there. It's a difficult one."

Harrington is expected to add three captain's picks to nine automatic qualifiers. The list of European veterans who would need a pick to make the team based on the latest standings includes Shane Lowry, Graeme McDowell, Henrik Stenson, Sergio Garcia, Paul Casey, Justin Rose and Ian Poulter.

Meanwhile, the Jack Nicklaus-hosted PGA Memorial tournament and the LPGA's scheduled return event from a coronavirus shutdown are reportedly pushing Ohio Governor Mike DeWine to allow spectators to attend the events.

Tournament directors from those events and two others scheduled in the state in July and August wrote a letter last Friday to DeWine, the Columbus Dispatch reported Wednesday.

They want DeWine to end or ease a ban on large gatherings so fans could attend. His order limiting gatherings to 10 people or fewer began March 12 due to the deadly virus outbreak.

"If the question is, 'Could you play the tournament without spectators?' we couldn't," LPGA Marathon Classic tournament director Judd Silverman said.

The Memorial was postponed from the first week of June to July 16-19 at Muirfield Village in a major reshuffling of golf due to COVID-19.

With the PGA planning four events without spectators to start its return, the suburban Columbus event is now set to be the second that might be played with fans, if local officials allow.

"We are working on a plan and details to follow," Memorial tournament director Dan Sullivan told the newspaper, saying it would be played with or without spectators.

However, the LPGA Marathon Classic, set for July 23-26 at Sylvania, Ohio, needs spectators to be viable.

"When you run the numbers, if no spectators, then you're returning all of the sponsorship money," Silverman said. "Once you return all that money, it puts our event deep into the red to the point we can't afford to do that." ***(AP/NBC)***

NFL may lose $5.5B if games played sans fans

NEW YORK—If NFL teams play games without fans in the stands in 2020, the league could lose $5.5 billion, according Forbes' Mike Ozanian.

That figure is based on stadium revenue from the 2018 season, according to Forbes.

The NFL would lose $5.5 billion of stadium revenue (the sum of tickets, concessions, sponsors, parking and team stores)—or 38% of its total revenue—based on figures for the 2018 season (ranking below). But the impact on the individual teams would vary greatly. For example, the Dallas Cowboys and the New England Patriots would lose over half their total revenue while the Buffalo Bills, the Tennessee Titans and the Cincinnati Bengals would lose less than one-third.

As Ozanian points out, some teams will be hit harder than others. The Dallas Cowboys and New England Patriots, teams that made a significant amount of money through stadium revenue in 2018, will lose a larger percentage of total revenue in 2020 compared to teams like the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals.

Even in a season where fans can attend games, the Patriots may have seen a drop in total revenue after Tom Brady left to join the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

It won't just be teams who suffer from the lack of fans in the stands. NFL players receive between 47 percent and 48.5 percent of total revenue as part of the collective-bargaining agreement. That figure will take a significant hit if fans are not allowed to attend games in 2020.

AP

In this March 1, 2020, a general view of Lucas Oil Stadium is seen prior to the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis.

Helmet face guard

With an eye toward getting back on the field during a pandemic, the NFL is working on a helmet face guard that might provide the same sort of protection as a surgical mask.

Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay, who heads up the league's competition committee, said the issue was raised during a conference call about a month ago.

"A lot of players have played with a clear shield to protect their eyes," McKay said Tuesday during a video conference call with Atlanta media. "This would be extended even further."

Thom Mayer, the medical director of the NFL Players Association, said league engineers and sports equipment company Oakley are testing prototypes of a modified face mask that might contain surgical or N95 material.

"I had suggested that we should consider novel and emerging ways to handle the helmets and the face masks and the spread of the virus," Mayer said on a podcast with ESPN's Adam Schefter. "These guys got the bit between their teeth."

Work on the face mask is far enough along that "there will probably be a recommendation" to use it when the league begins its preseason schedule in August, according to Mayer.

Cleveland Browns center JC Tretter, who also serves as president of the NFLPA, welcomed any attempt to improve player safety.

"There are no bad ideas at this point," he said. "You kind of have to think outside the box. Just because it is an idea does not mean things are definitely going to happen, but you need to explore it and you need to understand it."

Falcons cornerback Isaiah Oliver withheld judgment until he's able to check out a prototype.

"I haven't seen anything like that," Oliver said Wednesday. "I would have to look into it to see what it looks like."

Oakley is already contracted by the NFL to provide visors that some players use on their face masks. The company also has developed durable eyeglasses for the military that are designed not to fog up—technology that may prove useful in its latest project.

The new coverings would likely have to cover the entire face mask.

"They've got some prototypes," Mayer told Schefter. "Some of them, when you first look at them, you think, `Gosh, no' because you're not used to seeing it. You're just not used to seeing it. But they're looking at every issue you can imagine, including when it fogs up. What do we do with that? But these guys are used to dealing with this stuff."

McKay said he expects the new face masks would quickly gain acceptance, assuming they meet two main standards.

"They've got to be comfortable for the players," he said. "And they've got to be safe."

While McKay has never been a fan on the tinted visors that some players already use, he's learned to accept that look.

"I understood that some players needed it because of their eyes," McKay said. "In this instance, if this is what the doctors in the medical field think is needed, then we should look into it."

Tretter said the NFL is "probably going to look a little different this year," and modified face masks might be part of the changes.

"You have to focus on fitting football inside of this world of coronavirus and not get caught up in trying to fit coronavirus inside of this world," he said. "You can't expect just to throw football back in and think that the virus is going to kneel down to football. You have to look through different ways of making sure people stay healthy. ***(AP/NBC)***

Chiefs holding unique virtual competition for punting job

LEAWOOD, Kan. (AP)—It's a good thing an NFL kicking operation requires no more than three players.

There's the long snapper, tasked with delivering the ball. The kicker, who is expected to send it through the uprights. And the punter, who for many teams doubles as the holder on field goal and extra-point attempts.

The reason this is important, at least for the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, is that for the first time in 15 years they are trying to decide on a new punter. Dustin Colquitt held down the job with Pro Bowl efficiency for as long as some of the current Chiefs have been playing football. But his increasing age and the franchise's dwindling coffers forced the club to make the difficult business decision to let him go this offseason.

With teams barred from holding in-person workouts because of COVID-19, the Chiefs have been unable to bring in an endless number of potential replacements. Instead, they signed Tyler Newsome and undrafted rookie Tommy Townsend, and those two have been working out privately with kicker Harrison Butker and long snapper James Winchester.

Well below the gathering limits of 10 people that have been in place in Kansas and Missouri.

"We're kind of fortunate," Chiefs special teams coach Dave Toub said, "because those guys can get together and kick and work on the operation. They can do that on our own. We can work on our skill set, whereas to play football you need 22 guys out there. You can't sit down face to face, but they video everything they do and send it to me and we talk."

Nobody knows when teams will be allowed back at their facilities for good. Just this week, players rehabbing from injuries and certain staff were finally allowed back, but no coaches or healthy players. So that means what would typically be low-stress, good-natured workouts on a high school practice field for Newsome and Townsend have taken on extra importance.

What they show off on video could determine who has the leg up—pun intended —when training camp finally begins.

"There is nobody out in front right now. I like them both," Toub said. "They've both got really strong legs, really powerful legs. They consistently hit over 5.0 (seconds) hang times, which is impressive. Tommy is a little more clean in his technique as far as consistency, whereas Tyler is a little more erratic. But the results are the same. They both bomb the ball."

That's a good thing for the Chiefs as they attempt to replace a franchise icon.

Colquitt appeared in a record 238 games for Kansas City, easily besting the previous mark by Nick Lowery. He also set franchise records for punts, punt yardage and career-long kick with an 81-yard boot. When he was released, he was among the top 10 active players in appearances and had the eighth-most punt yardage in NFL history.

Even more impressive, he was the only man among the top 20 in total punts to have played with just one team.

"They've been with Dustin for a really long time. He's a guy that has done everything the right way," Townsend said. "The biggest thing for me is just trying to make a name for myself and become my own person."

Townsend's familiarity with Colquitt goes back to college; he began his career at Tennessee, where Colquitt holds a number of records, before transferring to Florida. As a Gator, he followed in the footsteps of his brother, Johnny, who was drafted by the Raiders a couple of years ago and has spent time in camp with the Giants.

Toub said the younger Townsend was the Chiefs' highest-rated punter in this year's draft class, even though two others—Texas A&M's Braden Mann and Syracuse's Sterling Hofrichter—where chosen in the later rounds.

Nats need weeks to be fully ready for games

AP

In this March 12, 2020 file photo, Washington Nationals pitcher Patrick Corbin throws to the New York Yankees during the first inning of a spring training baseball game in West Palm Beach, Fla.

WASHINGTON — Even though Major League Baseball didn't officially begin the 2020 season before coronavirus temporarily shut it down, months of preparation was halted and forced to be reworked.

Without a set date for a return to play, the Nationals haven't stopped preparing for their World Series title defense. They've simply been careful not to peak too soon.

"We have not ceased to train for spring training," general manager Mike Rizzo said Wednesday. "We have a major-league coaches and managers staff call weekly, we have the position-player coaches in contact with the pitchers, the hitting coaches in contact with the hitters.

"We're in constant contact, these guys are staying in good shape," he said. "We don't want them peaking or getting ready too early in case there's a delay in spring training or there is no spring training but we want them to be on the fringes of being ready and prepared to go to spring training."

Rizzo also revealed how long he believes his team in an abbreviated spring training period to be full-go for game action.

"We think in three weeks or so, give or take, they could be in full swing for any type of real competition when the season starts," he said.

For now, Nationals players can look forward to their upcoming virtual ring ceremony and prepare by their own methods. Nats fans can feel good about their team's work ethic during a pandemic because apparently they've gone to great lengths to stay ready.

"We've got a lot of guys [using] a lot of ingenuity to figure out ways to stay prepared for the season," Rizzo said. "Somebody should do a documentary on the different types of setups these guys have, it's really remarkable.

"Guys buying portable mounds so they can throw in their back yards and buying batting cages, pitching machines and curveball machines to ready themselves in that type of unique situation," he said.

Meanwhile, in Tampa Bay, the Rays will open Tropicana Field to players on the 40-man roster for light workouts beginning on Monday. Players will only be allowed to play catch, run, do cardio, and do light weight work. They will not be allowed to throw off mounds, hit in the cages, or use the clubhouse and weight room.

Monday will mark the Rays' first team-sanctioned gathering since then. Players will still be limited to small groups and have to adhere to social distancing protocol.

Florida is among the states gearing up for the return of professional sports. California, New York, and Texas recently gave the all-clear. Florida governor Ron DeSantis said on Monday that "getting sports back online is important for our nation's mojo."

On Tuesday, the Marlins opened their spring training facility in Jupiter for limited workouts. We'll likely see more and more sites open up in the coming weeks.

In Pittsburgh, Pirates infielder Kevin Kramer will miss four to six months while recovering from surgery on his right hip.

The team announced Wednesday that Kramer underwent the procedure last week in Vail, Colorado. The 26-year-old Kramer had been dealing with what the club called ''chronic symptoms'' while attempting to stay ready for the potential start to the 2020 season.

Kramer was in the mix for a utility spot with the Pirates. He hit .149 with a home run and two RBIs in 29 appearances for the team in 2019 and batted .240 in 11 games during spring training before the Major League Baseball season went on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Los Angeles, the Angels will implement furloughs across their organization starting June 1, becoming the latest team to take steps against the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Angels spokesperson Marie Garvey issued a statement on the decision Tuesday.

"We, like businesses throughout the United States, are making difficult decisions to protect our long-term stability," Garvey said. "We are assisting all staff by paying health care through the end of the year. We are also contributing $1 Million to an Angels Employee Assistance Fund to provide grants for those in need." ***(AP/NBC)***

FLASHBACK

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in three and a half innings.

The Braves then knotted the count at the bottom of the fourth with Peter Lieto scoring off a fielder's choice.

The match remained in a deadlock after five complete innings.

Then at the top of the sixth, with one out and a runner on second, Camacho hit a single to center field and drove A.J. Lizama home for the go-ahead run.

Camacho went on to finish off the Braves, as he struck one three more batters in the last two innings and had a big defensive stop in the sixth. A Braves runner was on third with two outs when Camacho picked up a bunt and threw to first for the third out.

After the title win in 2013, the Padres managed to keep the Big League crown the following season as they defeated the Fielders in the 2014 finals, 7-1.

IT'S

From Page 28

fected at any time, regardless if there are fans around or not. This temporary setup might also upset others that agree to keep social distancing between everyone," Travilla said.

"However, if they will still go through with live games, I think people would still watch because sports is a big thing," she added.

Alvin Alvarez, who serves as game announcer in various basketball leagues on island, witnessed how spectators boost the players' morale and playing sans the fans, he thinks, will affect the quality of matches.

"Players are endeared to their fans because of their showmanship, for one. Players then are pumped up to see the crowd cheering for them. Without the spectators to motivate them, their game will definitely be different. It's not a live game without live fans," Alvarez said.

If a small group of spectators is frowned upon, what if there's totally none?

"This will certainly be a different feeling for fans such as myself seeing a crowd-less sports arena. I believe even the athletes will feel different playing without having the crowd to feed off energy and excitement from. In fact, it might feel like regular pick up games for them. But if this is a temporary solution to be able to see our favorite athletes playing again or even better have the misplaced workers getting back their jobs, then this would be a great idea and I am all for it," said Clint Albert, a league organizer.

Meanwhile, when Bundesliga (professional football league in Germany) returned to action last weekend and featured the then highly anticipated duel between Union Berlin and Bayern Munich, the Stadium at the Old Forester's House was without fans, who are known for shouting at the top of their lungs every game.

AP

A cameraman is on break from taking footages from the spectators' seats, which are covered with pictures of fans, before the start of a baseball game between Hanwha Eagles and SK Wyverns in Incheon, South Korea, May 5, 2020.

At the pitch, goals were celebrated with lonely gestures such as reluctant fist bumps and elbow touches.

In another stadium, acting on impulse, Hertha Berlin players hugged after scoring a goal in their 3-0 win over Hoffenheim. After the match, league officials announced that teams will be reminded anew to observe safety guidelines, including avoiding group celebrations.

These scenarios on and off the pitch are what make a soccer game a religion for fans and players alike, according to MP United Football Club technical director Norman Del Rosario.

"Sports stadiums are curious places, especially for soccer. They are architectural wonder, though a handful take the breath away: the Stadium of Light in Lisbon, where Benfica's eagle flies around the field before each game; Tottenham's new home, still with that new paint feel. What lifts them, what makes them feel special, is the history etched into the walls, and the people that fill their stands. They come to life," Del Rosario said.

"The presence of fans transforms these places into something that makes the heart soar, and it transforms the games those fans come to watch. There is no point playing soccer again until people are allowed in to watch it. Football without fans is nothing, literally applies more now than ever," he added.

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Sports

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It's showtime or not

AP
In this Nov. 15, 2019 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James dunks against Sacramento Kings forward Nemanja Bjelica during the first half of an NBA game in California.

AP
Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland celebrates his goal against Schalke alone as Bundesliga resumed play last weekend with no spectators.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James pushed the ball hard toward their frontcourt, eluding a phalanx of defenders before posterizing Sacramento Kings forward Nemanja Bjelica with his monster dunk.

The crowd went wild.

That would be the normal reaction of spectators at the Staples Center. However, with the National Basketball Association and other sports considering returning to play in empty stadiums at these no ordinary times, the sound of the roaring crowd will be greatly missed.

While we can still watch these exciting games at the comforts of our home, sports enthusiasts that Saipan Tribune polled believe this temporary (we hope) setup will make a big impact in the games and those that play them, as both thrive with the adoring and sometimes, borderline fanatic crowd in tow.

"From my perspective, because we can watch live from Saipan, I don't think it will have much impact for those that watch it on television. Although they are professional athletes and do so much good in the communities, they play to entertain fans," said Preston Basa, a perennial member of the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team and head coach of Marianas High School.

"Will we be entertained? Of course! The issue for me is whether or not the athletes are willing to do it. Yes, they make millions, however, they are human beings with families and loved ones. It is still a risk for them to sacrifice their health and potentially affecting their families in order to play to entertain those that are staying at home to avoid the spread of the disease. If players are willing to do so, I support it. I have always been a fan of sports and enjoy watching the best of the best compete," Basa added.

Kaia Travilla, who plays for Mt. Carmel High School and Rollers Basketball Club, said that athletes may have special skills and are physical fitter than normal people, but that does not guarantee they won't be affected by the coronavirus.

"I don't think it's a good idea right now given that the players aren't immune to the virus and they could be af-

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Flashback: Padres deliver in late night finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Padres, on this day, seven years ago, waited for nearly four hours to play in the Big League finals of the Saipan Little League Baseball only to beat the NBA Braves, 2-1, after just one hour of game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Padres-Braves title match was originally set for 6:30pm, but was long-delayed, as the Fielders and the Braves had an extended championship game in the Senior League.

The Big League finals finally started past 10pm and fortunately for the Padres, pitcher Brian Camacho was still in top form to power their team to victory. Camacho delivered on both ends of the field, fanning out 10 batters in a no-relief job and recording the go-ahead hit at the top of the sixth inning to hand the Padres the division title.

Camacho put the Padres on the board as he reached off Jordan Pangelinan's double at the deep right field at the top of the first inning. The Padres kept the precarious advantage

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this file photo, Padres players and coaches flash the No. 1 sign after beating the Fielders, 7-1, in the finals of the Big League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Padres also won the 2013 title after downing the NSA Braves, 2-1.